

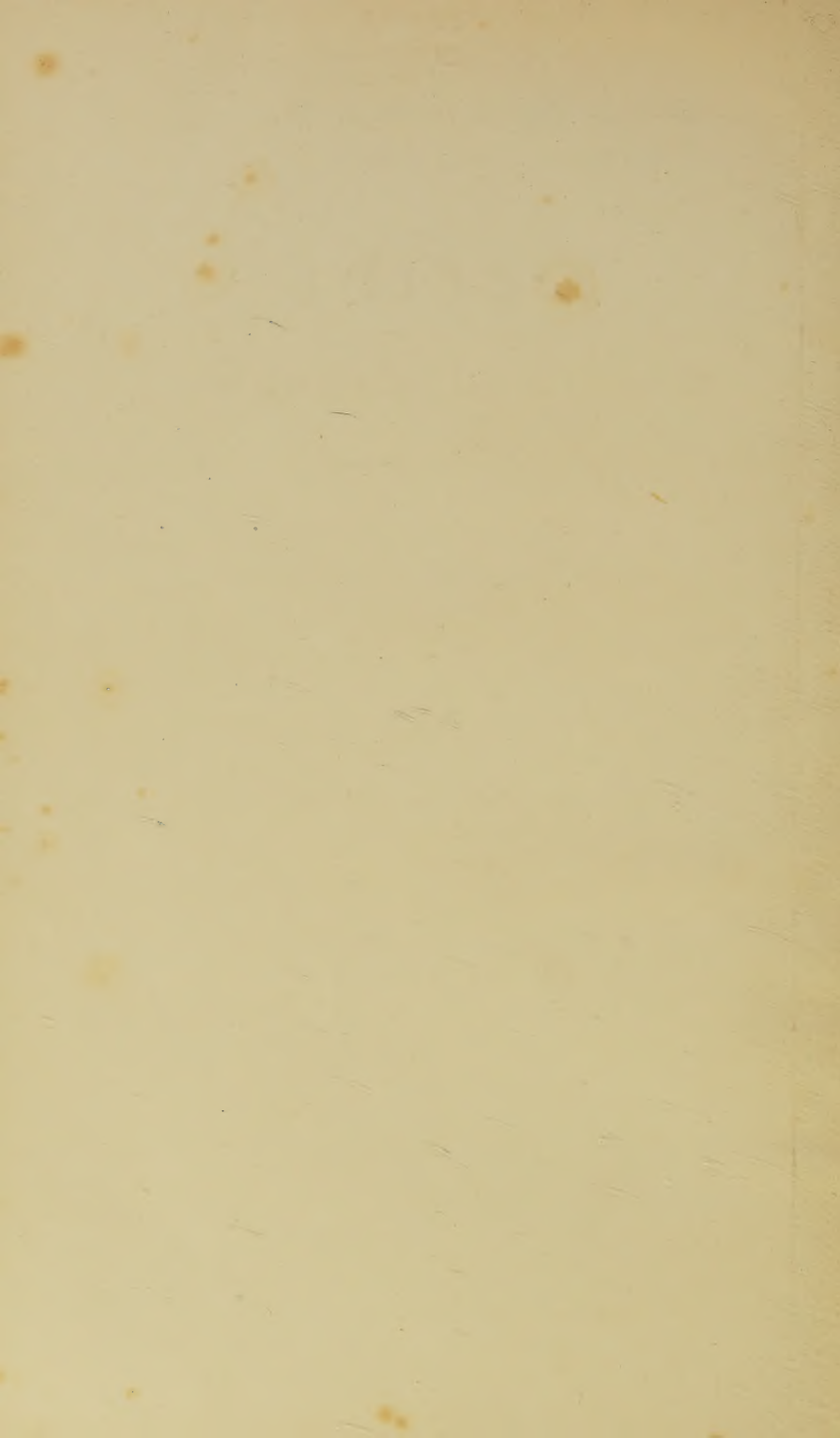
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H.M.S.



Perth:

Past and Present

(SECOND SERIES)

GLIMPSES OF BYEGONE DAYS
AND THOSE THAT ARE

BY

Peter Baxter

Author of "Perth : Past and Present,"

"The Shoemaker Incorporation of Perth,"

"The Drama of Perth,"

History of the Turf, and of Golf, and Football in Perth,
etc. etc.

PERTH :

John M'Kinlay, 11-15 King Street

1929

PREFACE

The favourable reception given to the first volume of "Perth: Past and Present"—it was over-subscribed—has induced the writer to venture a "Second Series" on the same lines.

The subjects treated are diversified. The aim throughout has been to tell of notable individuals, and of notable incidents, of the past—to re-record these and bring them down to and link them with the present day.

The generous encouragement given to engage in historical research in regard to Perth and district is greatly appreciated by

THE AUTHOR.

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Ex-Lord Provost Wotherspoon, O.B.E.
Perth*

Perth High Street Port

Within and Without the Gates

"Not shut at all by day."

To adapt Kipling, "What should they know of Perth who only (present) Perth know?" There is a lot of truth, and a lot of suggestion, in the phrase. Perth passes from history into tradition and the further one goes back the less able is one to verify. But the past as compared with the present is ample in itself, and interesting at that.

No sooner do the majority of things come into being than they protect themselves, or are protected. In the days of chivalry, man put on iron and steel armour to protect himself while engaged in aggressive or defensive personal combat. He built a castle, which would be a place of strength in strife, and a home in days of peace. Cities built walls to withstand would-be invaders, and be a sure place in time of siege.

Great Walls.

The heart gives first place to Jerusalem and its walls and its gates—materially, and typified in higher thought; so, too, Jericho, Babylon, etc.—an undesirable place was one where "the stone wall was broken down." All walls did not fall like those of Jericho at the sound of a ram's horn. The greatest wall of all is that of China. The great cities of classical

A Phrase.

Jerusalem.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Still Existing

times—Nineveh, Athens, Rome, etc.—were walled. Of walls proper one in thought goes back to the Wall of Antoninus and Severus, Hadrian's Wall, Catrail, Offa's Dyke, etc. London comes out of the mist of ancient times as walled, and so, too, Dover. Best specimens still existing in Great Britain are Conway, Chester, York, Alnwick, Berwick, Limerick, Derry, etc.

Protection of Cities.

Protection of a city was, as indicated, akin to the protection of one's person, or home. Fortifications of a more or less permanent nature date from the earliest ages. The Roman period and date of 84 A.D. is early enough for Perth. The Babylonian Wall was 100 ft. high and 32 ft. thick. By the time Perth came on the scene for protection from without and defence from within the height of walls had come down to about 10 ft. or 12 ft. and from 3 ft. to 2 ft. in thickness. Circular bastions at right-angles were for years a feature of city walls. "The Gate," however, was the great feature of architecture and importance. Jerusalem had twelve gates—on the east, three gates; on the west, three gates; on the north, three gates; on the south, three gates. Most Scottish towns were content with four gates—as a rule, north, south, east, and west.

Four Gates.

Ornamental and Useful.

When gates and gateways were no longer required for fighting, or defence,

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

they became ornamental. All unconsciously and unexpectedly this came about. Gates and gateways were considered the climax of perfection of the military architect. Strength and beauty were in the design and building of a gate or gateway. These varied very much. In some it was merely a passage or opening in which a gate or large door was hung: an open way with side pillars, or a covered way vaulted or roofed over. Gateways were in some cases flanked by towers with loopholes, from which assailants could be attacked, or battlemented from which missiles could be thrown on besiegers. Gates strengthened by a portcullis, and an out work or barbican in front with a drawbridge were ideal. City gates and castle gates were beautiful in design and strong in construction.

Greece and Italy.

Greece and Italy excelled in the magnificence of some of the gates of their cities, especially at Athens and Rome. When "Peace" began to spread over the world, these specimens of craftsmanship became greatly esteemed for their ornamentation. In ancient times, "the gate" was the important part of a city where proclamations were made, and where Kings administered justice. Ecclesiastical Orders, in lesser degree, had walls and gates enclosing their edifices, such as abbeys, colleges, monasteries, nunneries, convents, etc. Religious life had to be prepared to shut itself in

**Gateways
and Towers.**

**Kings
and Justice.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Perth as a Walled City.

A Passing Away.

and defend itself if necessary from "the evil" that was in the world outside, and protect itself by gates and barriers. When towns took their form and after greatness by houses being built even outside the walls of a castle, gates became of less import.

The Romans.

One goes back to the time of the Romans to get their first traditional mention of Perth as a walled city. The third Roman invasion of Great Britain was by Agricola in the reign of Vespasian in the first century—circa 81 A.D., so far as Perth is concerned. In his day, the Rev. James Scott, of St. John's Church, devoted research as to the early history of Perth, and has left it on record that Agricola prosecuting his conquests north of the Forth to the Tay, built a strong castle at Perth, erected walls around the city, and supplied the ditches with water by an aqueduct from the Almond. In the fifth century a Roman legion again advanced (422 A.D.), driving the Picts beyond the northern wall, and it was no longer possible for them to retain the country between the walls of Antoninus and Severus. The Romans passed away later, and so does the history of Scotland for the time being. It is said that three of the Roman (or early) gates of Perth were strongly guarded with towers.

Momentous Periods.

The next momentous period in the

PERTH : PAST AND PRESENT.

history of the country was when in 843 A.D. King Kenneth MacAlpine defeated the Picts and brought into being—Scotland! The next, Malcolm Canmore, in 1054. The next, William the Lion, in 1165. The next, Wallace and Bruce, in 1296-1329.

The Sieges.

It is a remarkable thing that although there are many references to the repair, to the breaking down, and to the passing away of them, there is no definite information as to the first building of the Walls of Perth, except the assertion as to Agricola. The Danes (900-1000 A.D.) laid siege to Perth and to its castle. Then followed the sieges by the English and the re-sieges and capture by Wallace and Bruce; the "rush through" of the great Montrose; and the giving up of the city to Cromwell in 1651. The references to the city walls are given incidentally between the first and last of these events.

Walls and Sieges.

In the time of Wallace, his first siege and capture of Perth was in 1297—Sir John Ramsay of Auchterhouse and Sir John Graham attacked the Turret Bridge and according to plan Wallace and his followers laid trees across the lade further away, scaled the walls and captured the town. By a different stratagem, according to Fordoun, Wallace captured Perth a second time. As to Bruce's first attempt to capture Perth; he trusted

**Walls of
Agricola**

**Perth in
1297.**

**Tibbermore,
1644.**

to the honour of the false Earl of Pembroke and was defeated at Methven Wood. Bruce's second attempt in 1311-12 was a brilliant bit of heroism and personal leadership. A window in the Perth Council Hall depicts the scene. Bannockburn followed in 1314. Edward I. of England had passed away in 1307. The Battle of Tibbermore followed in 1644, when the Great Montrose rushed the city; the walls were ordered to be repaired, and this continued till 1646. Cromwell appeared before the repaired walls and shut gates of Perth in 1651; after a day's "siege" Cromwell offered "honourable terms," the gates were opened. As year succeeded year the walls gradually became ruinous, and ultimately passed away.

The Extent.

**The Later
Gates.**

The Walls of Perth began on the Tay at the Spey Tower, continued westwards by Canal Street to South Street Port, then to High Street Port and Mill Street, then eastwards by Mill Street to the Red Bridge, the Castle, and North Port to the river which completed the four-square defence. Apart from early references it is accepted that the "gates" in the later years of the walls were at Speygate; South Street Port; High Street Port; and North Port. There used to be a saying "any port in a storm"—we shall find it convenient (for the present) to take "one port" at a time, and that one the Turret Brig Port at High Street, which was the "West

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Port," and one of the gateways of the fortified town.

The Turret Bridge.

This short resume is of Perth as an old city—its fortifications incidentally referred to without its sieges and "seizures" being particularly treated of—the doughty deeds of Bruce against Edward I. of England on the north, the "sit down" for a day of Cromwell on the south, and the "rush in" of the Great Montrose after Tibbermore on the left, and Lord Ruthven's Battle of the Bridge on the Tay on the east. From the latter, it may be inferred that there was also a "gate" at the bridge (or rather bridges) which from time to time spanned the Tay at the foot of High High, previous to the erection of the present bridge in 1766. In Albert Close, off George Street, the south side of the lade is guarded by high masonry to which is affixed a small white marble tablet inscribed—"Old City Wall." Another part is believed to form part of the gable of the McArthur-Guild licensed premises at foot of Mill Street. There may be other parts of the Walls of Perth still in existence, but they are either unmarked or unknown.

The Perth of Walled Times.

A mental survey of Perth as in walled times is interesting. One has got to picture the situation and circumstances of the ancient Royalty. This was within the modern demarcation of Canal Street

**Edward I.
of England.**

**Ancient
Royalty.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Many Changes.

on the south and Mill Street on the north; the eastern boundary was the Tay, and the western the Town's Lade running from near the City Mills to South Street Port; which was then an open water-way with the western wall inside similar to the northern wall at the lade at Mill Street and the southern wall inside the lade at Canal Crescent and Canal Street. The lade was originally the fosse, or ditch, outside the city walls. There was no North or South Methven Street in those days, nor Scott Street and Kinnoull Street, King Edward Street, St. John Street, nor George Street. High Street and South Street ran parallel from west to east, as they do at present, and the main streets at right angles were Meal Vennel, Watergate, Kirkgate, and Skinnergate, and the many vennels and lanes some of which still remain, others have passed away.

Head Affairs.

North Port.

The "head affairs" of Perth were transacted (as they still are) at the "foot" of the High Street. The Spey Tower was the "gate" to the south; by the Red Bridge at Castlegable and the North Port exit was had to the north; when a bridge spanned the river, access was got to Kinnoull and the east; the South Street Port gate and the High Street Port gate gave exit to the west.

Hal o' the Wynd.

It has been well said that Perthshire owes a debt of gratitude to Sir Walter



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TELEGRAMS "MALLOCH PERTH"

Scott for letting the Trossachs and the Loch Katrine district be known to home and overseas tourists and travellers. Perth in like manner owes a debt of gratitude to Sir Walter Scott for writing such an entrancing Scottish romance as "The Fair Maid of Perth." He depicts to the life the accepted burghal conditions of the period, and the ecclesiastical and feudal conditions as well. St. John's Church receives a big notice; Simon Glover and the Fair Catharine; the Celtic Conacher; Hal o' the Wynd, the city armour maker and blacksmith; Oliver Proudpute; Lucky Shoolbred and Louise, the Glee Maiden; and the Scottish Court itself—Robert III., the crafty Albany, the royster Duke of Rothesay, are all well depicted.

Mixed Thoughts.

Only part of the romance comes within purvey in connection with the High Street Port. The somewhat mild Robert III. and the Court events within Blackfriars Monastery, the "wild night" of the Duke of Rothesay and his revelling followers, the combat in the Skinner's Yard, and the worthy Provost maintaining the honour and peace of the town, have for the present to be incidentals. Hal o' the Wynd was the Andrea Ferrara of Perth—he made suits of armour, swords, etc., suited to the times, and if business was quiet at home he sold his skilled handicraft on the Borders where there was "aye fechtin," and "aye a guid demand for guid breast-plates and blades."

**Burghal
Conditions.**

**Honour and
Peace of the
Town!**

Andrea Ferrara.

The subject of Andrea Ferrara's swords was dealt with in a most interesting lecture by Major Herbert S. Pullar, Dunbarnie, to the Gaelic Society of Perth in the Guild Hall on 28th September 1922.

A Substitute.

Hal o' the Wynd comes before the reader as a substitute on one of the sides in the Clan Battle on the North Inch in 1396, who shared the honours of the great "thirty-to-thirty" contest with Torquil of the Oak. Simon Glover, the merchant skinner of the city, was proud on all occasions of his young friend Henry, and hoped to see him some day his son-in-law. Catharine had a pensive love for the city armourer, but her higher thoughts were against the making of armour and swords—that bloodshed should ensue, apart from defeat or victory.

St. Valentine's Eve.

St. Valentine's Eve was a notable occasion in Scotland in mediæval times, and especially so in Perth. On the following morn (14th February) birds took to themselves a mate for a year, and why should not young men and young women—and they did so! With a kiss Catharine sealed Hal o' the Wynd as her valentine (or champion) for the year. "The Court" had revels, and a "Glee Maiden" from a sunnier clime than Scotland got stranded.

**Major H. S.
Pullar.**

**Famous
14th Feb.**

The Mill Wynd.

Making his way home from the Blackfriars district which lay along the north wall of the city (between the wall and the water-way was a path which afterwards got the name of the Lovers' Loan) to the Mill Wynd near the City Mills and the High Street Port gate, Hal o' the Wynd unexpectedly found the wandering Glee Maiden. A human heart dictated to the armourer to take the girl home with him for the night, and get his somewhat shrew of a housekeeper to accommodate her. It was a kindly act, but there were evil-thinking people abroad at the late hour, who saw Harry escorting home the girl, and spread abroad on the morrow the compromised position of the city champion, who was "as pure as pure could be."

Hal o' the Wynd Close.

Opposite Sharp's Institution, a close passes from South Methven Street to Mill Wynd. This close has for years been called "Hal o' the Wynd's Close," an outside stair goes by the same name, a passage to the north at one time gave access to the lade, and "Perth View" photograph cards have been published of the old-time place. The same building facing Mill Wynd takes on a picturesque appearance. On the front is a large collar-sunk square panel on which years ago was the date of the erection of the building. There is a circular keyed window. The whole is occupied as tenement

Poor
Wandering
One!

Picturesque
Building.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Interesting Dates.

property, and owned by Mr. James Morison, accountant, Blackfriars Street, Perth. The dreamer of romantic dreams and the tourist at once accepts this as the literal building in which Hal o' the Wynd had his smithy, made armour, and accepted the well-meaning observations of his aged talkative housekeeper. The sceptic blurts out—"I believe that place was built for a weaver's shop, and a weaver lived in it!"

1591-1721.

The older building is said to have borne a date 1591. A higher building next to the lade bears the date, 1721 (partially obliterated).

The Soft Answer.

One prefers to give the soft answer, and continue viewing the "type" selected by Sir Walter Scott under the guidance of Postmaster and bookseller Morison, a forebear of the present owner. In a few minutes one can "people" the Hal o' the Wynd house and its precincts. The Town's Lade rushes past, the City Mills grind sometimes exceeding small, and the Mill Close tells of its situation and purpose. There is still a smithy in Sir Walter Scott's "type" building—for over fifty years Messrs. D. Gorrie and Son, coppersmiths, have carried on in the premises a successful business in the making of bronze, copper and other utensils for the brewing and distilling trade, and caldrons and vats for dyers, and have now added modern

Over 50 Years.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

machinery to specialise in the thousand and one accessories required in the dyeing trade, for which Perth is famous. Slogans are at present popular: what say you to—"Perth for distilling and dyeing."

A Derelict Mansion.

Extensive premises extend over the South Methven Street section of the laide to the north and to the limits of the site in Mill Wynd. In the course of one visiting the premises of Messrs. Gorrie, a unique erection is seen—a small old-time mansion-house forms the centre part of the building. Staircase, spiral stair-rails, doors, windows, etc., are in some parts still complete! Can one doubt that at long last Hal o' the Wynd's real house has been unearthed? In the Mill Wynd, Oliver Proudfoot met his death by an unfriendly hand for masquerading as the blacksmith—bad luck to Oliver truly. The city was roused the following day to take vengeance against the unknown assassin, and then followed the Trial by Bier Right in St. John's Church. A few years ago, three gentlemen drove up to the extensive grocery and wine merchant premises of Mr. Alex. Thomson at the corner of Mill Wynd and Old High Street, and asked to see his cellarage, which one of them thought was the "burn the wind's" place of operations long ago.

The Modern Side.

One passes to the modern side of the situation. For years the neat little

Mill Wynd.

**Famous
Cellarage?**

**Peddie,
Ironmongers**

Glasite Church stood "outwith the port." It is now St. Paul's Parish Church Session-House. Of old time a section of the lade at High Street Port was open, but protected by a four-ft. high whinstone dyke. Adjoining were the premises of Messrs. Peddie, ironmongers. A few years ago, the North of Scotland Bank (agents: Messrs. Robertson, Dempster & Co., W.S.) built bank premises on the site, and thus passed away a well-patronised "seat" for Messrs. Pullar's dyers ere the "10 minutes to 9" and "10 minutes to 2" whistle sounded which, after refreshment, re-called them to labour!

Fifty Years Ago.

**Bacon
Curers.**

Fifty years ago, continuing towards the Town's Lade from Hal o' the Wynd Close existed the premises of Mr. Archibald Campbell, designated in the Perth Directory of the time as "dyer and renovator," who dyed wool and hung it up on outside poles and had drying and other premises adjoining the lade, near to those of Messrs. Robertson & McNab, ham and bacon curers. This is a new firm in a new industry in the old picturesque building as you go to the "far end" of Mill Wynd next the lade. Bacon in various stages of curing is hanging all around, with tubs for curing, kilns for drying, and cold storage for freezing. A few years ago, workmen came upon an underground chamber which had all the appearance of having been a wine cellar! The vintage had been so good that no bottles had been "overlooked."

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Changes.

Perth Ex-Service Club occupy the northern part of the one-time Campbell drying sheds, and later R. G. Nicholson's cycle stores. The soldiers have an exceptionally nice "cosy" club. The "A. Campbell" firm was referred to as "little Campbell's" in contrast to Messrs. P. and P. Campbell at Balhousie, who in the same book are designated "silk dyers and renovators." Part of Mr. Archibald Campbell's premises was in grass and this part was occasionally used for selling sheep. On the other side of Methven Street stood two widely-known establishments—the Logiealmond Tavern and Sharp's School. The former had extensive yard accommodation, and here the present firm of Messrs. Hay & Co. instituted in 1830 live stock sales, and continued same till they removed to larger premises in Victoria Street over fifty years later, and to still larger premises in Needless Road a few years ago.

A Quick Return.

When a big sale was on in the original premises the "overflow" stock of sheep, etc., were accommodated in Mr. Archie Campbell's yard. A quip of the time was that, not the sheep, but their fleeces were soon back to be dressed and dyed as door-mats! But Mrs. Forbes' Logiealmond Tavern and the days of the Hays passed away from that part of the town and Sharp's School playground became twice the size, with a may-pole in the centre. To the south

**Old and New
Designations**

A Big Sale.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Ireland's photographic studio, Hughie Stewart's butcher shop, etc., near by was John Dick's "Flying Horse" inn, which has now become John McLean's "The Clachan Bar" (Mrs. McLean),

The High Street.

Turning into the High Street was Mr. Peter Taylor's newspaper shop (now a National Bank branch), and Mr. Barlas's salt store when pickling was common, now a "passed" trade in Perth. A worthy son is ex-Dean of Guild Barlas, who has given many years to the selling, study, and administration of literature, to public life in municipal, educational, church, and cricket matters, and who in a busy life as a shipping agent and house factor (and a mine of information as to both) is the appreciated Convener of Books Committee of the Sandeman Public Library, Perth. Dear to children (and some grown-ups) was Chammy Elder's premises and the stick-jo and other sweets sold there—now Mr. William Paton's up-to-date Tea Rooms. Next door were Pie Pullar's pie and licensed premises (now the Thistle Bar (Smith's)). In the days before multiple shops were as numerous as they are now was Adam's Fancy Bazaar. There crowds in on memory Montgomery's and Donaldson's bakery shops opposite each other; Smail's, watchmaker (now Proudfoot's), and Miller, hatter. Heavy household plenishing and equally heavy personal hosiery were then the order of the day, and hank wool and worsted a speci-

Many
Changes.

Chammy
Elder's.

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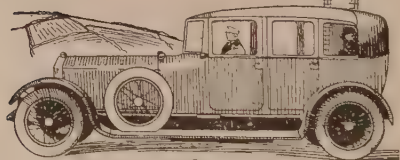
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PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

ality of Mrs. Young's premises with old-fashioned bow windows—this trade is now supplied by Mr. McCowan, draper, and Mr. McGregor, draper.

Opposite.

Opposite for a time was Ticky Young's watch and jewellery shop, and Smith's and in turn Small's toy attractions. Mr. John Paton's grocery has passed into the hands of ex-Dean of Guild Peter Thomson of P.T. Port fame; and among others is ex-Bailie J. K. Taylor, stationer and newsagent. The Glencoe Inn of old days (with bow windows) is now a large modern licensed bar—a wheeze of a former time was that "they went into Grieve's not to grieve but to get jolly!" For years the premises have been owned and personally conducted by Mr. James McCracken, whose aptitude for figures made him Treasurer of Perth Town Council for a period of years, and whose interest in sport made him well suited in turn as President and a Director of St. Johnstone Football Club.

Gone!

One misses the one-time Macdonald's fish shop, Donaldson's bread shop, and Barnes' grocery, instead there has appeared Messrs. Strang & McLagan's undertaking establishment, Mr. Peter Fleming's "Farquharson Tea Shop," Mr. Loudon's grocery, and Mr. A. F. Dalglish's watch and jewellery shop. The south-west corner has seen the biggest change of all—a tenement of shops

**The Glencoe
Inn.**

**Familiar
Names.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

The Hendersons.

and dwellings which had steps down and steps up has been replaced by the splendid premises erected by the late ex-Lord Dean of Guild Robt. Henderson, now the "Henderson" firm dealing in flowers, fruits, fish, and game. The "circular corner" is Hepworth's clothing emporium, followed by Macfarlane's motor and cycle depot, W. Dow, jeweller (now Law), Hal o' the Wynd Bar, and so on to the South Street Port and round the corner—Edward Maconochie, glazier; and J. Young, drysalter. Once well-known premises such as Jean Brown's and the Golden Lion licensed tavern, and Hewat's pie-shop, Stewart's game shop, and Wight, wire-worker, have gone.

Central.

The Present Day.

It is good to note some of Perth's "central," and certainly well worthy of mention business premises, viz., those of Mr. W. B. McCallum's Kodak photographic and wireless stores; Mr. J. S. Donald, antique dealer; Messrs. P. D. Malloch's angling supplies emporium, Ferguson's Pharmacy (Mr. John Forbes), and Mr. W. L. Hampton's stationery shop, Scott Street; Mr. Charles Rattray, tobacco blender and cigar merchant, High Street; Mr. D. A. Wallace, King Edward Street; Mr. Buchanan Dunsmore, High Street and St. John Street, Mr. John Mailer, tobacconist, Messrs. D. Leslie, stationers, and Mr. Joe Anderson, sports outfitter, St. John Street; Messrs. Frazer, merchant tailors, Messrs. Wood and Sons, booksellers, Messrs. Garvie

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

and *Syme, ironmongers, and Mr. J. K. Norwell, bootmaker, High Street; Messrs. Love & Sons, furniture stores; and Mr. W. Hume's ironmongery stores, Kirkside, etc.

South Street Port.

The other (or west) side of South Methven Street has also seen many changes. Soutar's (now Adie's) bakery shop at "the corner" still continues. So does Mr. D. L. Edward, shipping agent; Mr. Henry Stewart, hairdresser, etc. Where once the lade was more or less open and seen from the street at Messrs. Garvie & Deas' works, is now covered over. The offices and factory part of these premises are now occupied by Messrs. Alexander & Brown, seedsmen and florists, and by Mr. Thomas Harley, manufacturing chemist, of the useful "Rodine" rat exterminator speciality. Other business premises more or less "built over the lade" are Mr. McLean, confectioner; Mr. Frew, butcher; Mr. Aitken's Perthshire Rubber Co.; Mr. J. S. Carmichael, bootmaker; Mr. R. A. Storey's tartan warehouse; Mr. G. Burnfield, jeweller; the Wally Close; the King's Cinema; Messrs. T. Roy, butchers; Saxone & Cable Shoes; Mr. J. S. Nicoll, stationer; Mr. Glass (now Brydon), chemist; the Bank of Scotland branch premises; and the Kinnoull Arms Bar next to St. Paul's Parish Church.

Interesting.

The foregoing "shop survey," interesting in itself, shows the many changes

**Over the
Lade.**

**Business
Premises.**

"On Point Duty."

which have occurred within half-a-century of years—and can be seen in two minutes glancing north, east, and south, from the High Street Port, showing how important "the Port" is as a "centre" of business life in the city. Within the same two minutes one can take mental note of the number of motor vehicles (horse traction is almost obsolete) which pass and repass the policeman on point duty—and the same modicum of time can show how many of the people of Perth love to gather at the High Street Port (the popular Port) to discuss the affairs of State or city, or more likely football and cricket. They might be worse employed! Most towns and cities have "a popular meeting-place," and in Perth it is the High Street Port!

Perth's Canal.

As it is now centuries since "Perth's Canal" disappeared there is little need of asking if any person remembers of it. On the present occasion we will start our "survey" at the Tay despite the fact that in doing so one is going against the stream. Water-ways have ever been the first means to explore and give access into the interior of a country. Romans, Danes, and others advanced on Perth in this way. When Perth became a shipping port, and later a shipbuilding centre, the Tay was more and more the highway to and from the sea. In the eighteenth century especially the Port of Perth was one to be mentioned with respect in shipping circles. Ships were

Water Ways.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

then of small tonnage, and corresponding water draught. Vessels ranged from 50 to 500 tons. So far as can be ascertained, the latter was the maximum tonnage which ever attempted to enter Perth Harbour; around 100 tons was the usual figure. Perth shipping became of so much importance that the Sand Island at the Friarton was filled up at the north end; the present harbour formed; another planned to touch the South Inch with docks in the Bog or Gulloch at the Slaughterhouse; the present quay formed on the river opposite that point; the Railway Bridge specially made a "swing bridge" in 1847 to allow of vessels to reach the Coal Shore at the foot of Canal Street. The Lime Shore was at the Slaughterhouse and MacQuibban's Buildings.

Musings.

As one musingly considers things as they are at the present time and thinks of what they were a century ago, and the "dreams" of extensions then possible—one can only say, that with the introduction of iron into shipbuilding, followed later by the introduction of railways, the glories of Perth shipping departed. Perth shipping and ship building had great names and great times. Some of the names yet "live," and are worthy of being recalled:—Shippers and ship-builders may well be named together: The Mercers, Sandeman's, Richardsons, Grahams, Calder, Cowperthwaite, Duncan, D. Pitblado, Lennie, Tay and Thames Shipping Company,

**Perth
Booming.**

**Ships and
Shipping.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

the Perth Shipbuilding Company, Ltd., Stuart, Smeaton, Brown, Wallace, Fenton, Buik, Leslie, McPherson, Lennox, Thrift, Brewster and Patullo, Donaldson, Oswald, Easson, Cameron, Sorlie, Wilson, McLaren, Thomson, Campbell, Barlas, Nicol and Ostens, Fotheringham, Dutch, Malloch, Knox, etc.

Perth's Canal.

Spey Tower.

Perth's canal branched off the Tay at the Spey Tower of ecclesiastical times opposite the eastern frontage of the Baptist Church, in the title-deeds of which there are some references to the ancient water-way. Vessels unloaded at the Shore opposite, and barges ascended what is now Canal Street and Canal Crescent, passed the South Street Port, and proceeded to the High Street Port, if not to the lade at the City Mills. The canal was first spanned at points by bridges, and then built over. Among the first bridges erected was one at Princes Street, still existing but covered by causeway sets. Man-holes exist at various points in Canal Street and Canal Crescent to allow of the old water-course to be cleaned or repaired when required.

Man-Holes.

An Experience.

Literally, "man-holes," and wide water-ways, exist. The story goes that on one occasion a young man Deas, of the Messrs. Garvie & Deas' firm, entered by one of these apertures at Canal Crescent and walked till he came to the then open part of the lade at the works

of the firm in South Methven Street. His only mishap was that at a point there was a rush of hot-water from an overhead pipe which went down his neck; in his haste he stepped forward and in doing so stepped into a hole which had been gradually made by the more or less discharge of the water!. At that time Messrs. Garvie & Deas had a water-wheel in the lade for driving part of their machinery. The wheel was done away with many years ago. Very little water passes down the lade-course nowadays between the lade proper at Mill Street and High Street Port. There are still man-holes, however, at different places to give access.

**A Water
Wheel!**

Old-Time Closes.

In the days when barges ascended the canal, long narrow closes from South Street led to the water-way. The names of those still existing indicate the uses they were more or less devoted to:—Cow Vennel, Brewhouse Close, Rope-makers' Close, Horners' Lane, Candle-makers' Close, Shuttlefield Close, Resurrection Close, Malloch's Close, Brewery Close, etc. People living in these closes got a glimpse of the coal barges as they proceeded upwards to the High Street Port, or returned from it.

**Coal
Barges!**

1800.

People can scarcely picture the situation at the Port in 1800. When workmen began to lay the foundations of St. Paul's Parish Church (which was built

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Many
Changes.**

in 1807) they came on iron rings in the stone walls of the lade-course, showing where the coal-barges had been moored in early times. Round about were coal-sheds, etc. These passed away and tenement houses were built to form St. Paul's Square, as was Kinnoull Arms Hotel and stabling, and the extensive carriers' carts and byres area which now forms the large premises of Mr. Wm. Robertson, wholesale potato dealer, St. Paul's Square.

St. Paul's Parish Church.

**Military
Church.**

The erection of St. Paul's Parish Church by Perth Town Council as city heritors added an elegant building to the town, and one ever in evidence for its public clock and Sunday bells. Rev. Dr. Findlay was its first minister, and he was succeeded by Rev. Dr. W. H. Gray and Rev. Alex. Falconer. Then came the long ministry of Rev. Archibald Fleming from 1856 to 1900. Since then there has been Rev. F. H. Martin, Rev. Matthew Stewart, Rev. John Wilson, and Rev. Jas. McKenzie. From first to last the congregation has been a very large one. For many years it was the "Military Church" of the city and was attended on Sunday mornings by Presbyterian soldiers located for the time being in Perth Barracks. The church fabric was erected, as indicated, by the Town Council as a city church, and a deed of disjunction specially recorded as to St. John's Church. The teinds of Perth were gifted to the city by Queen Anne in 1604.

The Glasite Church.

There was erected in 1839, The Glasite Meeting House for the continuing members and descendants of the congregations brought into being in Scotland, England, and America as such, or as Sandemanians, of Rev. John Glas, Tealing, near Dundee, who was deposed from the Church of Scotland in 1730. Glas had a strange career: He was born at Auchtermuchty in 1695; was a son of Rev. Alex. G. Glas, minister at Auchtermuchty and then at Kinclaven, Stanley. John was licensed by the Presbytery of Dunkeld in 1718, and called and ordained to Tealing in 1719.

**Rev.
John Glas.**

Marriage.

In 1721, the Rev. John Glas married Catherine, daughter of Rev. Thomas Black, one of the ministers of St. John's Church, Perth. Became a popular preacher; held monthly communions; introduced the holy kiss and love feast; renounced certain passages of the Confession of Faith; was suspended by the Synod of Angus and Mearns in 1728; deposed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1730. Later he was restored to the ministry without license to preach. He removed to Dundee and formed a Glasite body, which spread over Arbroath, Dunkeld, etc. In 1733, he came to Perth and formed a Glasite congregation in a back building in the High Street. In Perth, Glas was joined by Robert Sandeman (1718-97), who afterwards became his son-in-law, and founder of the Sandemanians.

**Glasites
Formed.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

A Simple Service.

Ceased To Be!

The members of Perth Glasite Church having decreased so much during the last twenty years, the congregation ceased to exist as at Sunday, 14th October, 1928, and the meeting-house became, through the kind offices of Mr. James Morison, accountant, Perth, a church hall for the Kirk-Session of St. Paul's Parish Church. The service of the Glasite congregation was simplicity itself—those chosen leading in reading, prayer, sermon and praise, after which the members dined together each Sunday in a simple love feast.

1807-1929.

Quaint Building.

As things go, St. Paul's Parish Church, although built in 1807, is a comparatively present-day object. So are its surroundings, St. Paul's Square, now a circular turning point for Corporation motor 'buses rather than the stance of country carriers' carts of previous years. "Thomson, Grocer," is the outshot building at Mill Wynd, but officially in High Street, where more than one generation of the family have been successful merchants. On the opposite side of High Street is perhaps one of the oldest and most quaint buildings in this quarter—to get into it you both step down and step up. The McDougall's of chimney-cleaning fame have passed away, and the frontage now bears the announcement:—"Ye Auld Hoose in the Old High Street is famed for its Fish Suppers." The south-east corner of the Newrow saw its coal-sheds and ahem!

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

slaughter-house and school! pass away years ago.

So, too, on the opposite side of the street—gone are the Mill Close Inn, even so the cow byres and dairy, and Johnny O'Neil's rag and china shop—beloved of boys of fifty years ago where for a few odds and ends six bools could be got which gave delight for a whole summer.

Mr. Alexander Thomson.

When Mr. Alexander Thomson built the premises adjoining his shop in High Street, the workmen came upon a quantity of log-wood indicating that the site had once been a dye-work with water from the lade adjoining. At that time the street was 3 or 4 ft. lower than at present.

The Patriotic Gardens.

The late Great War saw a big new conception called "Plotholders." Not so, fifty years ago the Perth Patriotic Gardens (of a previous effort) were the pride of the western part of the city, and extended more or less from Newrow to Elibank Street. But progress is writ large over the area indicated by the enterprise of Messrs. Macdonald, Fraser, and Co., in acquiring the ground, developing the huge livestock trade of Perth, erecting buildings, and giving off ground for the Waverley Hotel, formation of Market Street, Caledonian Road, etc., and the erection of the splendid tenement houses and shops in that area in 1877. Newrow, as its name im-

**An Old
Dye-Work.**

**Live Stock
Trade.**

Old Road to Inverness.

plies, was itself first formed to allow of the then weaving industry of Perth to extend and provide houses for the weavers.

Westwards.

The road, or thoroughfare, westwards from High Street Port in old times led to Stirling to the left and Crieff to the right. From it a road branched off at Mill Wynd, crossed the Town's Lade at West Mill Street, passed to the west of Messrs. Wright's brewery, and proceeded through the grounds of Perth Barracks (then known as Drumharr) northwards to Dunkeld and Inverness. A road went from North Port through the North Inch and Muirton fields and joined it further on at the Almond.

The Nearer East.

Gentry Close.

The formation of the northern part of South Methven Street many years ago caused new boundaries to be indicated in title-deeds as also new proprietors. Mr. G. N. Gray, solicitor, Perth, is ever interested in all matters pertaining to Perth. What is now known as Hal o' the Wynd's Close was for years designated the Gentry Close. A title deed tells of Mrs. Reid giving a feu-charter in 1867 of subjects to the north of the close to her husband, and recorded in 1888. The property so conveyed was bounded by Methven Street on the east, the Town's Lade on the north, the Mill Wynd on the west, and subjects on the south belonging to William Smythe of Methven and others, who were trustees

of John Lindsay of Woodend. Mrs. Reid's interesting feu-charter refers to a mid-superiority, a feu-duty, and an over feu-duty.

St. Paul's Chapel.

A tablet on the southside of St. Peter's Place in upper High Street tells of a once St. Paul's Chapel which served its day in pre-Reformation times. A building further up the street known to the present generation as Bailie Richard Walker's factory, and Councillor Hill's and now Messrs. Soutar & McQueen's joinery, was once a religious house. From time to time "schisms" occur in religious life, and one of these over a hundred years ago was "The Cap Out Congregation," which in the course of its chequered existence sometimes had a minister and sometimes not. When the latter state of affairs existed, two or three of the leaders officiated in turn. Late-comers to the service were frequent, and a peculiar habit of a shoemaker who officiated was that at every additional penny which sounded clink in the plate, he opened his eyes although engaged in prayer! And others half-opened their eyes to see him doing so!

Thimblerow.

Famous Thimblerow has got a tearing down these latter days. Sir John Tyrie, the Collegiate Provost of Methven, is said to have had an interest in the place in early time, and so, too, the famous Mercers of Perth, for "Aldie Cottage" still exists at date; the outer ground was

**Cap Out to
Joinery.**

**Famous
Names.**

**My Lady's
Thimble.**

dedicated to St. Catherine; "the cart-wheel" of time saw houses built as compactly together as sacred Jerusalem ever could have been, and later a Chapel ("the chappie") erected in Thimblerow, which is said to have got its name from the form of a ladies' thimble (not a tailor's), a nice inlet, but no outlet! Nowadays they call such a cul-de-sac. For many years there were many happy homes, and big families, in Thimblerow. For a time it became so characteristic (as well as important) that an able and genial local writer, the late Mr. J. H. Henderson, depicted Scottish life there (and other places) under the title of "The Chronicles of Thimbloraw," by Sandy Macnab.

Hand-loom Weavers.

**The Affairs
of the Nation**

Again we change sides as to High Street and on the south find (in memory) half-dozen of the last of the houses and weavers' shops of the days of the hand-loom in Perth and especially this district, only one of which now remains. A sunken flat gave space for the hand-loom, the web, and where such existed the spinning wheel, the pirn reel, etc.; the top part was the dwelling-house, and the attics the bedrooms for the younger members of the family. The weavers were always keen to discuss "the affairs of the nation," "what was best for Perth," etc., and upper High Street had at times a "Provost," and one or two "Bailies," all named and accepted by consent and of the free-will of the people! The last of the old

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

houses in upper High Street is that near to the Sub-Post Office and opposite Mr. Moir's grocery premises and large tenement building—once the home of David Kennedy, the famous Scottish singer, and now marked by a tablet erected by Mr. John M. Fraser, Perth Auction Market.

Mr. Beat's Concrete Works.

In the good old days people were "infected" into landed estates by the passing from the hands of the seller to those of the buyer of stone and earth; at the present day, entrants to the Guildry Incorporation of Perth are admitted through the symbols of stone and lime. The idea in both is as to something tangible and enduring—especially stone. In Scotland, for generations, houses have been more or less of stone, because such was durable and plentiful. But the old order is passing away. Science is entering everything. Certain rocks, certain sands, and certain fluids are now crushed and mixed together, put in a mould, and out comes the popular concrete. Mr. David Beat from premises (another new industry) in Feus Road, Perth, has been manufacturing the better class of concrete for his own building requirements, and for the trade. Two things ever go well together—quality and demand.

**Modern
Conditions.**

**Popular
Concrete.**

The Clayholes.

The old-time houses of Clayholes to do them justice would require the brush

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Original Owners.

and canvas of an artist rather than a few lines of print. The place-name is suggestive of what the district once was ere the clay was extracted to help to erect buildings. The Clayholes of to-day is a little bit all of its own, and the original owners built according to their own ideas of what "a hoose" should be in the days when height of ceiling, alignment, footpath, width of street, air-space, even light, were not troubled about as now. What people then wanted—and wanted simply—was a roof over their heads, simple food during the day, and a bed at night. The continuation of Clayholes (before the railway) was Dovecotland, with its houses of newer date, but about the same level of roadway, with one unique "out-shot shop" opposite the Wellshill Cemetery Gate which tells of other years but modern appetising smells. The journey continues through Jeanfield and Goodlyburn to Burghmuir. To the right is Hillyland, and Scone Palace peeps from among the trees; across the dip is Huntingtower Castle, famous as the scene of the Raid of Ruthven of 1582; Hill of Ruthven (owned for years by Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie and tenanted by Mr. David Douglas) is westward, so, too, Blackruthven (now owned by Miss Macnab), and Tibbermore parish is beyond.

Across the Dip.

(Companion article—St. Catherine's and Burghmuir.)

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WAVERLEY HOTEL, PERTH

Royal George Hotel.

ROYALTY, REST, AND
STAGE-COACH DAYS.

The Past and the Present.

Everything changes, but let every change be for the better, is a fine old maxim. This holds good especially in regard to inns and hotels. Our grandfathers were pleased to call a place of refreshment and rest, an inn. Now, we adopt the French word, hotel, and in doing so have passed from ordinary comfort to luxury. That is as it should be.

One looks back to the early days of inns and wheeled vehicles, in the light of what has been, rather than a wish to go back to them.

A Notable Example.

A notable example is The Royal George Hotel, Perth, and its accessories. In doing so, we run up against the antiquity of the town wherein such a desirable adjunct to travelling and tourist life is situated. The Romans early occupied Perth, the Danes harassed it, Cromwell visited it, the Jacobites assembled at it for their two campaigns on behalf of "the King ower the water." Civil strife passed away, agriculture and commerce came into their own, and Scotland advanced.

An Inn.

Many
Campaigns.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Hotel-building, stage-coach introduction, and road-improvement (1763) were all features of the new Scotland of the end of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth century.

Changes.

New Life.

Perth saw its Castle and its Monasteries pass away, to in turn assume its proper position as the travelling "centre" of Scotland. From without and from within, Perth took on a new form of life. Bridge after bridge over the Tay at the foot of the High Street had been washed away, and for some hundred years Perth had no bridge at all. Disaster after disaster did not prevent the present Eddystone Lighthouse being re-erected by Smeaton, of Yorkshire. Of date 1766, the same famous engineer selected a site and within ten years saw a bridge built from Perth to Kinnoull which has defied the greatest floods of the greatest river in Scotland, and looks as if its age of over 150 years was merely a thing of yesterday. It stands as a specimen of an architect's ideal—strength and beauty. A coincidence—in Canal Street at the south end of Cow Vennel there is a sculptured stone of same date, 1766, surmounted by a thistle and the initials, L.R. M.B.

Notable Dates.

"Gateway to the Highlands."

Perth has ever been the "Gateway to the Highlands," was even at one time reckoned the "Highland line," and the new bridge at Perth was the means of

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

new streets being formed. Among these, George Street came into existence, and at the present day is as little altered in the same period as the beautiful bridge, or the umbrageous prospect of Kinnoull beyond.

Local information says that Perth's new thoroughfare was largely built by the York Building Company of England, who speculated in Scotland in buying up confiscated Jacobite estates and building streets. Well, well, it has often been said that in the course of one's travels they meet with strange bed-fellows.

**York
Company.**

George Street.

As first built, and as it still is, George Street of Perth (formed during the building of the bridge) has dignity which needs no bush. Old prints of it impress at first sight. One of its features is The Royal George Hotel, situated on the east side and in the northern part of it. Historical memories at once crowd in upon the visitor and tourist. A small marble tablet opposite the hotel tells that it is affixed to part of the Old City Wall. A loud rush of water tells that the "ditch," which defended the town ere the days of gunpowder, is still in evidence. The cupolaed Antiquarian Museum is fit successor to the Castle of Perth of the days of William the Lion, and of Robert II. and Robert III. The fair sward of the North Inch saw the bloody Clan Battle of 1396, and battles were fought to a finish in those days.

**Old City
Wall.**

**Fateful
Events.**

The contestants, Clan Quhele and Clan Quhae, were represented by thirty men a-side—only one survived of one side and he saved his life by swimming the Tay—the survivors of the other side were so hors-de-combat that they were unable to pursue him! The North Inch is now given over to golf, cricket, hockey, and football—a change for the good.

Monasticism.

Blackfriars Monastery, celebrated for the penance of the Wolf of Badenoch, the place where the worthy burgess Simon Glover and his fair daughter Catherine did their devotions, and where James I. of Scotland was assassinated, is within a stone-throw. No one ever regrets reading Sir Walter Scott's "Fair Maid of Perth"—a seat in the hotel parlour, or lounge, and six hours of pleasure await you!

The Days of Stage-Coaches.

The Georges.

But one must needs cast ease aside, and consider The Royal George Hotel and the changes which have not only come over, but have occurred in connection with the old historic house. Built while the years were yet young with the Georges (the street was named in their honour), The Royal George Hotel in conception, erection, and accessories was, and has ever been, one of the best hotels in Scotland. Picturesque stage-coaches, chaises, and my lady's palfreys came and departed from its spacious door-way, surmounted with its small

ornamental iron balcony, as seen in an old print preserved in the hotel at the present time, and existing at the time of Queen Victoria's visit in 1848. These old-time verandah points of 'vantage allowed of political and other announcements being made to the crowd, with advantage to the crowd, and with safety to the speaker. In these days, "the crowd" sometimes wanted to impress on politicians their opinions by physical contact; we live in happier times. A wide "pend" to the north gave access to the carriage yard and stabling for twenty horses, with post-boys, strappers, and the all-important hostler, ere the days of railways had arrived.

Perth's First Official Post-Office.

But the days of Sir Rowland Hill and the adhesive 2d. blue and later brick-red Victorian 1d. stamp had arrived. Perth's first official Post-Office was situated at the "top" of George Street (it still exists, but is now used for other purposes). Here Her Majesty's mails arrived from London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, and departed for Inverness, Aberdeen, and Dundee. The mail coaches carried a limited number of passengers, as did the independent "Diligence" and "Caledonian" stage-coaches whose occupants ever found good accommodation at the "George"—aye, for man and for beast!

Some Staff.

It merely incidentally comes within purview to mention that the Perth Post-

'Vantage
Ground.

H.M. Mails.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Many Activities.

Office of these days consisted of a staff of two letter-deliverers and a Post-master. The latter was not only Post-master, but the premises being his own (as is still the rule with sub-city offices), the receiving and forwarding of letters in these days was a small matter compared to other activities. He dealt in agricultural seeds and at times from a plough-share to passing on household nails and tacks; supplied latest literature, Valentines in February, and stationery all the year round; he did more, he printed anything from a stage-coach announcement to a Theatre-Royal playbill, and a "war victory" to a visiting card! Notable Postmasters come back to memory—Morison, C. G. Sidey, and John Macgregor.

Popularity.

Big Additions.

The popularity of the George Inn internally, and its convenience to the Post-Office and everything which then counted externally, led to a big all-round extension. For the future, the house became The Royal George Hotel, and that by Royal appointment. The somewhat modest original frontage in George Street was improved by large bay windows, which still exist. The banquetting hall, in the centre of the building, with its circular ends, and which on occasions was devoted to high "ordinaries" (a term well-nigh obsolete), and a ball-room, where were figured the minuets and galops of a past century, and anon reels danced for nationality, were re-

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

tained. The "extension" was the erection of the imposing facade to the east which still exists (giving suites of rooms which became the order of the day), the formation of a flower-garden towards the river where gentlemen might stroll, smoke their cigar, and discuss the latest military tiff in France or Flanders, and my lady might sit in a cosy nook and enjoy her book, or perhaps employ her nimble fingers on lace-work. A garden pond with a few perch gave the whole an old-world completeness, which was satisfying to the times and the people who enjoyed them.

Queen Victoria.

The official visit of Queen Victoria, the Prince Consort, and the Royal family to Scotland in 1842 gave an outlet to the loyalty of the people of the country which had been awaited since the visit of George IV. to Edinburgh a decade or so earlier. For Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort to not only visit the centre, but the Highlands of Scotland, was a memorable affair and justified Balmoral as a Royal residence. Perth shared in the glories of the Victorian visit to Scotland, its citizens and civic magistracy did credit to the occasion by floral arches, presenting the keys of the city at the South Inch, the decorating of houses, and the lining of the streets by soldiers and craftsmen. The Royal George Hotel made a special display (as it did later on the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, the marriage of

**River
Garden.**

**Victorian
Glories.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Perth Loyalty.

the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne and other Royal events), bon-fires were lit on prominent parts, and leading county and city men dined in public buildings and in city taverns, and drank the toast with acclamation, "Long Live Queen Victoria"! The Royal family proceeded to Scone Palace to stay overnight, and returned to Perth next day, and passed on to Dunkeld, Taymouth, and other parts of Perthshire.

The Visit of 1848.

To Perth by Rail.

The Royal George Hotel did "mine host" to Queen Victoria, Prince Consort, and the Royal children six years later, when the Court being at Balmoral in that year essayed to sail from Aberdeen to Leith by the "Victoria and Albert." White horses dominated the North Sea for two days, and the Cabinet Minister in attendance and the Aberdeen harbour-master were in agreement that for Queen Victoria (brave woman as she ever was), Prince Consort, and the Royal family to proceed to sea in such weather would be indeed foolhardy. What was to be done—the Court was due south to fulfil engagements on certain dates. Rail to Perth would overcome the difficulty! Accordingly, information was sent to the Fair City, and to the Royal George Hotel at that, that the Court would arrive in two or three hours, and "rest" there for the night! It so happened that the then proprietor of the hotel, Mr Davidson, had gone out of town for a day. But his housekeeper rose nobly to the

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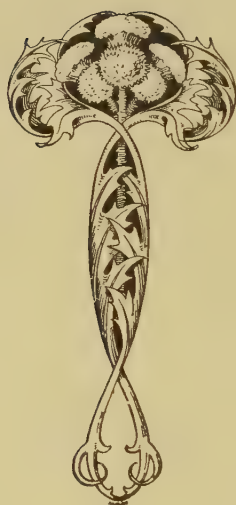
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occasion—housekeepers have a happy knack of doing so. She bustled about, and made others bustle, too; she did not consider the silverplate in the hotel sufficiently important in quantity to do honour to a Royal occasion, so she personally borrowed from Perth's then leading lawyer, Mr James Condie, Blackfriars House, to eke out the table decoration and service.

An Agreeable Surprise.

The Royal party arrived, were agreeably surprised to find everything ready for them as if a Royal visit and a Royal repast and stay-overnight was a daily occurrence in "The George." Again the viewer of the little print can have a picture without words of the departure of the Royal party the following morning. For long the room occupied by the Queen and the Consort was sacrosanct, but Victorian beds had their day (and cease to be), and although the Royal room is still marked with a number, the article which helped to give refreshing sleep for a night passed away—but two bedposts had a renaissance and do duty as pedestal lamp standards in the hotel. The principal chair in the room at the time, and the one usually occupied by Queen Victoria, afterwards passed from Miss Davidson to Mrs Hay, and of usual occupies an honoured place in that lady's house at Cultmalundie, but was on view in the Adam Lounge of the hotel flanked by the two lamp-standards aforementioned at the recent re-opening.

**The Table
Silver.**

**Prized
Articles.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

New Life.

Other Days, Other Changes.

Still other days, other changes. Visitors to Perth at present pass along Tay Street and as they do so they ask, is this a bit of Cologne, Paree, or Calcutta, it looks a bit of all three. Over fifty years ago Perth Incorporation resolved to fill up the Deadlands foreshore of the Tay at Perth by erecting a protecting wall and railing, and forming the ground behind into a beautiful tree-lined promenade. Splendid idea, and it was well carried out. This led to the passing of the sweet harbour garden and pond of "The George." Had to be done; every improvement and change entails a sacrifice.

"Phoenix-Like."

Once again the Royal George has arisen phoenix-like more suited to the times than ever. A one-time old walk for horses passing to and from the North Inch when horse-races were held there, passed away. A masonry fronted oblong piazza was formed in front of the whole of the eastern frontage, the Royal arms erected, and in letters of gold the imposing building declared to be The Royal George Hotel. Better still, an entrance hall was made from Tay Street, and a small flower garden reformed, which in these latter days greets the eye with rambling roses, and rock-plants for those who delight in alpine.

A Notable Name.

Early Information.

The earliest known papers in connec-

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

tion with the coming into being of The Royal George Hotel delight the eye and mind of the antiquary. They tell of site, situation, boundaries, etc., of the piece of ground which was at one time more Deadland (as it was called) than a place for the highest in the land to live in. Early and notable occupiers of the building have been Mr R. Christie (at an early date), Mr and Miss Davidson of the Royal period, Mr John Kennedy of Perth turf and coursing days, etc., down to landlord Mr Thos. Roy, and the present proprietor, Mr William Steele, who entered it with a heart-benison from Mr Roy.

Mr. William Steele.

Mr Steele seemed to be born for the task he put his hand to a few years ago. Energy, enthusiasm, pleasantry and enterprise he combines in one. Every improvement, and big ones at that, which have taken place, owe their initiation to mine host. He has not been content with improvements and alterations, but large extensions, built two years ago, for more dining space on the main floor, and suites of rooms and bedrooms, at right angles to the eastern front, with new kitchens and servants' quarters above, are a testimony to Mr Steele's enterprise. They are also a testimony to Mr Steele's success as a hotel proprietor. Every extension which he has made has been followed by overwhelming increase of patronage, summer and winter—the pop-in and off motoring

**Former
Occupants.**

**Proprietor's
Enterprise.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Fateful Changes.

tourist, and the staying guest, who loves the peace and enjoyment of a well-appointed house, and the personal satisfaction and pleasure which flow from such conditions. Just when most people would have been inclined to think that he had arrived at a stage in the journey of life which is named "rest and be thankful," Mr Steele entered upon and has just completed one of the biggest and most elaborate re-constructions which can take place in a hotel, viz., an internal re-construction, with accompanying re-building, re-decorating, and re-furnishing and upholstering; a laundry, electric lighting, a cold storage, etc. It has been a gigantic and ambitious scheme and one well-thought out in all its phases.

The Great Re-construction.

Notable Decorations.

The George Street spacious rooms have been re-constructed and re-lined in polished oak, the same applies to the hotel office, and the spacious corridor and square end windows with cathedral glass north and south. The wall and ceiling decorations by Mr Tom Peddie, of London (by the way almost a native of Perth), are the finest of anything in hotel decoration in Europe—that is a tall statement, but true. These include representations of the Romans advancing on Perth in their days of conquest, seeing the Tay a river greater than their own Tiber, soldiers, chariots, etc., being depicted with life-like reality. Other scenes are from Sir

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Walter Scott's "Fair Maid of Perth," etc., which, draped with specially made tartan curtains, give visitors and residents from all parts of the world a sense of the fitness of things that they are indeed in Scotland, and yea verily at "the gate to the Highlands"—to Angus, to Aberdeen, to dark Lochnagar and Royal Balmoral, to the Braes of Mar now a pleasant Jacobite sentiment, and a regal "Highland gathering."

Royalty.

Motorists.

The motoring visitor may desire to visit the region of Ossian of poetic fame and the Clan area of later time between Perth and Atholl, Rannoch, and Breadalbane, to go direct to Dalnaspidal and the Spey and Badenoch country, on to Inverness and John o' Groats, and in thought view the Orkney and Shetland islands; or perchance the motoring visitor has come from London by the sea-board of the east, and after viewing Perth city, desires to visit the Trossachs made immortal in the "Lady of the Lake," take Oban en route, and then Glasgow.

All can be done from Perth, and from Perth's splendid house of call, The Royal George Hotel.

**Perth the
Centre.**

Perth the Centre-Point.

Perth has also the advantage that it is the great centre-point of the L.M.S. and also the L.N.E. railway for mid-Scotland and the north. No longer is the cry heard "Change Here for the North!" Passengers and world-tourists,

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Reciprocity.

which every season include a large number of Americans to Perth, as well as Colonial Overseas cousins, and touring parties from India, find Perth "the centre" for staying for the time being, and later preparing to visit other parts.

Reciprocity.

The Royal George Hotel benefits Perth shopkeepers by its numerous visitors all the year round, and Perth pleases by prospect from the time one opens his eyes in the morning till curtains are drawn in the evening. It was a good idea when a new street was being built in Perth to build a hotel which would be on the principal street of the city and could be entered on the west for ordinary purposes, and at the same time face the Tay and Kinnoull Hill on the east! The rapid-flowing River Tay, sometimes even devastating in its winter floods, ever interests the riparian as to lordly salmon passing to and fro but never seen, the joy of the angler in landing a 25 or 53 pounder on the higher beats of the Tay—a royal fish truly, and giving palatable pleasure when on the menu card, as do the different kinds of water fowl seen at Perth, and "on view" only.

An Angler's Paradise.

Kinnoull Hill.

Kinnoull Hill invites those who are content with a mountain climb under 1,000 feet. Once at the top, and moving slowly forward to the cliff, one has a magnificent Tay valley view, as the river passes through pasture lands and

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

ploughed fields, mansion-houses and castles, and old religious houses. Being joined by the Earn, firth-like conditions take form, Dundee is seen in the distance, and anon one's eye passes out to the North Sea and one's thoughts muse on Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar" of life as well as on crossing the bar of the Tay.

Homily.

It is after such scenes and such thoughts one returns to The Royal George Hotel to find a home from home. "Say not then the former days were better than these." Dickens has immortalised inns, and the present generation of innkeepers are more than living up to the aroma of "rest and peace," which have come down through the newer term of hotelkeeper. One of these is Mr William Steele, and his bon-hommie promises to more than continue the Royal patronage of the past. The Royal George Hotel, Perth, is to be for the future as in the past, one of "the houses" as regards hotels in Scotland. Motor authorities have marked it a no less than "three-star" house of the present day—than which there is nothing higher.

It is ideally situated for tourists and visitors arriving in Perth by rail or road, river or even aeroplane! Yes, we live in a world of change; the ideal is to live up to and with all change and advancement. Mr William Steele and The Royal George Hotel, Perth, Scotland, does both.

Dickens.

**The Days
of Motors.**

**Civic & City
Recognition.**

The Alterations.

The alterations and additions just carried out have been of an extensive and complete character. They include the entire clearing out of the ground floor area of the main front building, and the supporting of the many superincumbent walls and floors by means of stanchions and beams which have been so skilfully arranged or concealed as to completely fall in with the architectural lines without their presence being detected.

On the occasion of the formal re-opening, Lord Provost Dempster, the Magistrates and members of Town Council and leading citizens gave a civic and city recognition to the Royal George, and Mr Steele well merited the honour done him.



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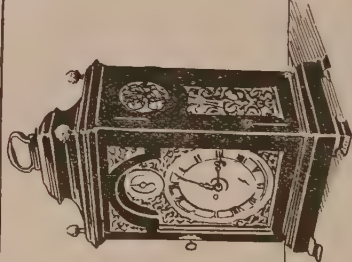
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Perth ⁱⁿ the Eighteenth Century.

A Phoenix Period.

Two hundred years
Have come and gone.

It is ever interesting to look back two hundred years,—the time is not too great to be out of touch with, and yet it is sufficiently of the long ago to compare it with what exists at the date of comparison. It is so with the Perth of the eighteenth century. It is a time in which there are the views and observations of travellers who made more or less prolonged visits, or journeys, to or through Perthshire. If one takes Scotland as a whole the earliest and most reliable references are of the Roman occupation period by Tacitus.

A Classical Reference.

A much later reference is that of Gavin Douglas, Bishop of Dunkeld, to Polydore Virgil, as to the state of Scotland, and inserted in an elaborate work. Pennant and others toured Scotland and left much of interest behind them. So did Wat Taylor, the English water-poet; Robert Heron; of later date, Wordsworth, the poet, and sister Dorothy, and others of still later times.

Taylor, the Water-Poet, and Perth.

Early references to Perth are ever interesting, and especially so when one

**The Touch
of Time.**

**Some
English
Travellers.**

**A Notable
Career**

comes across such of a century even earlier than our subject. Thus, Wat Taylor, who properly was John Taylor, the Water-Poet, born in Gloucester, and who was circa 1580-1653.

Taylor's life-experience was that of school boy, ferryboy, naval-man, water-man, and traveller-poet. While in the navy, he made sixteen voyages in Queen's ships, prior to 1603, the year of Queen Elizabeth's death. Taylor had the recognition of James VI. and Charles I., as a poet and traveller.

He had a unique way of publishing his numerous partly prose and partly poetic paper-covered brochures,—he wrote and got printed usually three such productions a year, sold as many as possible, and made presents of large numbers to distinguished personages, hoping for voluntary return in gold at the recipients' convenience. In one of his whimsical rhymes he reckons there were 800 defaulters! Taylor's works are now very scarce, and bring large prices at book sales.

Journeys.

In 1618.

Taylor did a number of journeys through parts of England, Scotland, and even the Continent, a big undertaking in those days. In 1618, he projected a journey to travel on foot from London to Edinburgh, in Scotland, not carrying any money to or from either, neither begging, borrowing, nor asking meat, drink, or lodging,—and back again. He tells of the various villages and towns he visited in Scotland, and especially of

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

huntings in the Braes of Mar and Badenoch. He gives "description of his entertainment in all places of his journey . . . with some other observations," . . . "lastly, that which is rare in a traveller, all is true!"

For Scotland.

Taylor left London for Scotland on 14th July, 1618, and returned to London on 15th October of the same year. The best accounts of the journey are published in an edition of 1630 and another in 1888 of his works. Despite his original resolution, he did not always travel on foot, but rode on horseback. Coaches were then unknown in Scotland. Taylor says that the first coach seen in England was given to Queen Elizabeth, previous to 1605, by William Boonen, a Dutchman, and the coach was brought from the Netherlands.

Taylor's interesting account of his visit to Perth, and notable for the mention of an innkeeper by name as early as 1618, is as follows:—

. "From Stirling, I rode to Saint Johnstone, a fine town it is, but it is much decayed, by reason of the want of his Majesty's (James VI.) yearly coming to lodge there. There I lodged one night at an inn, the good man of the house his name being Patrick Pitcairne, where my entertainment was with good cheer, good lodging, and too good to a bad weary guest. Mine host told me that the Earl of Mar, and Sir William Murray of Abercairney, were gone to the great hunting at the Brae of Mar. But I made haste I might perhaps find them at a town called Brechin, or Brechin, 32 miles from St Johnstone. Where-

**Editions of
1630 and
1888.**

**Patrick
Pitcairne.**

New Country and Town Life.

upon I took a guide to Breechin the next day. But before I came my lord was gone from thence four days." [Then follow particulars of the stag huntings at Mar and Badenoch.]

Transition.

In the eighteenth century Perth was passing out from a period of semi-somnolence into commercial activity. Agriculture was taking on a new form of cultivation, and town life was passing from hand production to that of factory or mass production by means of water-power. Perth was still situated, surrounded if you will, by Moncreiffe Hill of Pennant to the south-east, the out-crop eminences and the Ochils to the south and the Strath-tay range of the Grampians to the west and north, and the Sidlaws with the prominent spurs of Dunsinane and Kinnoull to the east, and more distant eastwards and westwards, Birnam, Mount Blair, and Schiehallion. But as indicated the country was taking on a new or increased agriculture, and tree-planting was coming into its own.

Newer Conditions.

A Newer Perth.

So was it with Perth itself,—the older Perth was passing away,—with some regrets no doubt,—but a newer Perth was coming into being. A revolution is the most dreaded of all the upheavals in a country, and usually the most disastrous. It was the Jacobite "revolution" which was the great turning point for good in Perth in the eighteenth century. The changes which were to come for good were not seen at the time. As the

Jacobites lay at Perth in 1715, and again in 1745, gathering strength ere marching southwards, and laying Perth under collective military tribute and the inhabitants under levy in various ways,—even a Lord Provost carried off, and a Governor appointed in his place,—the citizens did not sing Jacobite songs with the same feelings and sentiment as they do these popular melodies nowadays. The Jacobite risings showed the Government of the day the necessity there was for two things, which were afterwards attended to: the need of treating the Highlanders as patriotic Scots and not as outlanders, and the necessity of opening up Scotland by means of new roads.

“The Mouth of the Highlands.”

Perth was then, as it still is, “the mouth of the Highlands.” And what a delightful entrance to a more northern enchanted land. Ossian and his bards had sung of warriors long gone to rest; of the earlier races of Picts pressed back for a time by the Romans but never extinct; of the newer race of Scots who were to see the Celtic kingdom pass away, and new conditions come into force from being in turn defenders of inroads by Danes, and later English. Scottish independence was to pass by council conference rather than conquest, and its crown by blood succession. Monasticism came and went, as did a royal castle. There is a period of sleep in a community, optional or compulsory, which comes in different decades. Perth

**Soldiering &
Sentiment.**

**New
Conditions.**

**The Passing
of Gaelic.**

**The Hour
and the
Man.**

had such a period following the Reformation of the sixteenth century, but it was ready for a change of industrial and commercial conditions later, and benefitted accordingly.

A Survey.

The conditions which existed in Perth in the eighteenth century are thus of especial pleasure in a personal survey. The Gaelic language had largely passed away, and had been followed by a laboured lowland tongue now too passed away, a spelling now obsolete, and a caligraphy difficult to intelligently decipher! Military roads had begun to be made; the King's highway was improved jointly by grants and local landlord and farmer labour; and as a consequence wheeled vehicles were more and more coming into being. In country districts, horse-packmen were passing out of fashion, due not only to improved roads, but by the erection of bridges over rivers and large streams. Where there was no bridge, a horse could ford a river, with its owner on its back! Ferry-boats, except in exceptional cases, only carried foot passengers. Road-making, bridge-building, and wheeled vehicles for commerce, community-service, or city use thus all came into being when the times,—and men,—were ready for them.

Robert Heron.

One of the earliest mentioned tour journeys made to Perth was that by

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Heron, who, however, had been in Scotland once or twice previously. This traveller, preferring to leave the newly-introduced stage-coach idea to itself, reached Campbell's Inn, in Perth, in a flying chaise, which held four. No indication is given as to where Campbell's inn was situated. Some of the older inns, and hotels, in Perth, were built two centuries ago, others were not. Salutation Hotel bears date of 1699, the King's Arms Hotel (near to the Pillory at foot of High Street) is mentioned by some travellers,—it is not now licensed. The Royal George Hotel is of eighteenth century origin. Of later date are such large hotels as the Royal British Hotel, the Station Hotel (run in connection with the Royal Refreshment Rooms at General Station), the Waverley Hotel in York Place, the old Strathmore Hotel and Cross Keys Hotel in Bridgend, the County Hotel in County Place, Victoria Hotel and Moncreiffe Arms Hotel in Princes Street.

Parallel Formation.

Perth was designed, or came into being as two principal parallel streets running east to west from the river, with smaller streets at right angles, walls and waterways on the south, north, and west of the town, and the Tay on the east. So it was from the time Perth began to be walled till Cromwell sat down in front of its southern gates in 1650 and waited till they were opened. Cromwell was thorough in everything he did. By the

**Old Perth
Inns.**

**The Days of
Cromwell.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Craft Uses and Abuses.

eighteenth century, the walls of Perth had passed away, and the town had extended largely westwards, but unofficially recognised and unrepresented as being outside the ancient Royalty, or walled town. Then came the contention, which lasted for about a hundred years, as to craft trading, craft privileges, craft power, and craft uses and abuses, which were more or less finally settled in the Reform Bill of 1832. All this time Perth was progressing officially, and non-officially, in trade, commerce, and latterly shipping.

Benefitting from the Past.

Unexpected Trading.

When a town can benefit from its past history, and tack on some new industries, it will ever keep to the front. It was so with Perth two hundred years ago, as it is to-day. Despite all that has been adversely said as to the Union with England (and Ireland) that event gave Scotland a level road to the south, and Perth enterprise footed it with others. Despite such conditions as billeting laws and so forth, Perth benefitted by Cromwell's officers and soldiers being located in it; the same with the Jacobites, and later when the Hanoverian power made the town a military centre, which it still continues to be. The Cromwellian soldiers taught several arts and crafts to the inhabitants, as did the French prisoners of war of a later period. It is Burns who says to "gather gear by ever wile that's justified by honour," and one has merely to substitute the words



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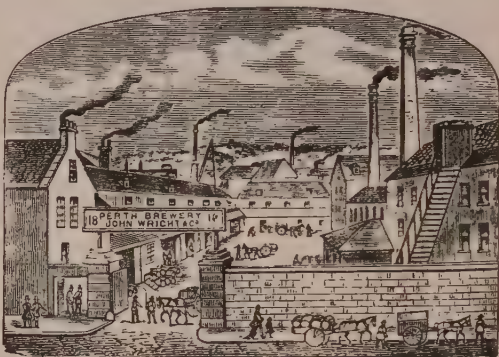
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"learning," or "handicraft," or "trading," to feel on as safe, if not higher, ground.

Church Upheavals.

By the eighteenth century, Perth had passed through the Church upheavals as to the Reformation and Revolution, Protestantism, Episcopacy and Presbyterianism. For a hundred years, there were "schisms," internal schisms, and the coming into being of the Secession of 1732, and in turn Auld Lights and New Lights, Burghers and Anti-Burghers (as regards oaths), U.P.'s, Reformed C's, Congregationalists, Methodists, Baptists, Glassites, Cap-Outs, Scottish and English Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, etc., all striving for the same happy end, but by many different footpaths! Such was Perth two hundred years ago, with "guid auld St John's" ever the stately emblem and city cathedral-church of Perth, as it still continues to be, greater and more imposing and likely to be more impressive as Perth's War memorial,—say not thou that the former days were better than these.

Education.

One passes naturally from the Church to Education. At a very early time Perth had a Grammar School, which continued in St Ann's Lane till recent times. Two of its distinguished pupils are said to have been the Admirable Crichton, ere he went to St Andrews University, and the first Lord Mansfield, ere he went to Westminster School, London.

**Schisms and
Secessions.**

**Distinguish-
ed Pupils.**

Amalgamated 1807.

In the period we are treating of, a Perth Academy was instituted. For a time, the Grammar School gave a classical education (Latin, Greek, Hebrew, English, etc.), and the Perth Academy (situated on part of Little College Yard where the City Hall now is), arithmetic, book-keeping, mathematics, writing, drawing, French, science, etc. The schools were amalgamated in 1807 when the present Perth Seminary (or Academy) was built in Rose Terrace facing the North Inch. Now there will soon come into being yet another Perth Academy to the West of the city in the Glasgow Road district.

Distinguished Rectors.

Distinguished early rectors of the Grammar School go back to 1560, and are now names to conjure with. The first head (or rector) of Perth Academy was Mr. John Mair, succeeded by Dr. Robert Hamilton, who went to Aberdeen; Mr. Gibson, etc.; Mr. McOmie taught drawing, Mr. Macgregor taught French, etc., having been resident for a considerable part of his life in France. It is said that previous to the formation of this school, Perth merchants' books were "for the most part, very awkwardly and confusedly kept." The masters taught "Italian book-keeping, the terms and forms of which will long remain a monument of the mercantile industry, ingenuity, and prosperity of the Venetians and Genoese, and of the establishment of the Lombard bankers in England." Good for Perth.

Italian Book-keeping.

Literary Life.

The Literary life of Perth received a big lift in 1784 in the institution of the Literary and Antiquarian Society of Perth. The idea was brought forward and largely carried through by the Rev. Mr. Scott, of St John's Church, who gave the first paper on the state of Scottish history. At first the society limited itself to antiquarian research and history, but years later widened its scope to include philosophy, literature, and the fine arts in general. Membership consisted of ordinary, honorary, and corresponding, and among these were Sir Walter Scott. Many distinguished foreign gentlemen "corresponded" as to special subjects. Meetings were held monthly, with an anniversary dinner. A handsome building with cupola was erected at the top of George Street, which still stands although now closed. For many years a valuable museum formed part of the activities of the members. Ichabod.

The Drama.

The Drama of the period was perhaps one of the least satisfactory of indoor endeavours, which included card-parties and dancing. In the early days of the Grammar School, mention was made of the giving at exhibition day of selections from "Cato." Travelling theatrical companies came from time to time to Perth, playing in the Glovers' Hall in George Street (now Messrs. Cameron's splendid upholstery and house-furnishing

Widened its
Scope.

The Play of
"Cato."

Strolling Players.

premises, and at one-time a fashionable coffee-room), and in the old Guild Hall and other halls in the city, and latterly in the old Grammar School. At that period, however, Perth did not seem particularly in love with the foot-lights (the impetus of Sir Walter Scott plays had not yet arrived), and Heron records that "a set of Players came last spring to try their fortune in the city, and lingered in it for several months till they were almost starved." Hard luck on the Players, considering that tradition credits Shakespeare having been in Perth ere he wrote "Macbeth."

Municipal Government.

Beautiful Order.

Somewhat equivocal was the state of Perth municipal government, which, however, was the same as in all other burghs in Scotland at the time. The Magistrates and Town Councillors were largely elected by the members of the Guildry and the Incorporated Trades. In turn these got into "sets" usually in favour of the former, with the result that the same "majority," although its individual members might occasionally change, were more or less in power. This, too, passed away in 1832. But there was need for good management to encourage, and to keep in order "the young blood," or practical jokers of the town, who would post-chaise on an evening to Dundee, or even Edinburgh, do some frolic, and return home all speed. Next morning the inhabitants of these towns would in anger ask—Who has

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

done this thing? A story goes as to the importance of the Dean of Guild at an earlier day to the effect that the Earl of Gowrie was to partake of a wedding-dinner with the Dean on the day James VI. arrived from Falkland, followed by the "Gowrie Conspiracy," real or false.

A Period of Prosperity.

Perth had a remarkable period of prosperity in the eighteenth century—and not only Perth, but Perth district. It was a coincidence that what was once a battlefield of the Danes at Luncarty, about the year 900, should some nine hundred years afterwards become the site of a new industry, and which is now so successfully carried on by Messrs. Burt Marshall & Co., Ltd. Hillocks and burrows, which had contained stone-coffins, were levelled to form bleaching lands for linen, and later cotton. Mr. William Sandeman, of Perth, leased ground from Mr. Graham of Balgowan to form fields for cloth bleaching, erected buildings, introduced machinery, built houses, etc. Linen manufacture was then advancing in Scotland generally and at Perth and district, profits were considerable, additional fields were got, and more hands employed. Other bleaching works were established at Huntingtower and Ruthven.

Worked For.

The coming about of this seemingly sudden prosperity had been worked for to a certain extent unconsciously by

**War and
Industry.**

**Big
Advance.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Peace and Commerce.

others. No sooner did Rome of old conquer a country than its merchants followed up and sold goods in the settled territory. As Scotland "settled down" after the Jacobite risings lowland town packmen, on foot, and on horseback, invaded the newly, not conquered, but made known Clan districts or counties. Perth actively engaged in the trade, and experienced what the Romans had discovered that a finer class of cloth, and more attractive designs ever be-get sales. The Highlanders were far distant from market towns. The chapman was always entertained with the best fare—free hospitality; he sold his new and attractive goods at his own price; and the gains of this travelling trade were said to have laid the foundations of fortunes in Perth.

Merchants.

Perth Advanced.

In turn the chapmen became merchants by opening shops in Perth, and becoming wholesale merchants to manufacturers on the one hand and to chapmen on the other. A considerable quantity of linen goods thus began to be traded in in Perth, and as the demand increased so did the supply! This new trade was encouraged by the advance of money by the Trustees appointed to Receive the Rents of the Forfeited Estates in Scotland. It was a hard "law"; thus the landed means of those who had suffered for Stuart patriotism was employed in developing the manufacture of linen in the lowland country.

Lint.

Lint was sown, raised, and dressed; the yarn was spun, and the weaving of fabric followed. A bleachfield was next required for the whitening or bleaching of the cloth. It is said that the first bleachfield established in Perth district was one at Tulloch by a Mr. Christie about 1750. The venture was successful. Some of the manufacturers asked an abatement in his prices; he refused. Another bleachfield was formed at Lun-carty! From small causes big successes ensue.

**First
Bleachfield.**

Mr. McAlpine.

The successful manufacture of linen in Perth district caused Mr. McAlpine, manager of a cloth-printing company in the Vale of Leven, near Dumbarton, to come to Perth. He erected big works at Cromwell Park, on the Almond, and at Stormontfield, on the east side of the Tay—both about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Perth but in different directions. The works in each case still exist. He formed new water-ways, erected buildings, and installed machinery on a great scale. McAlpine's enterprise gave a new animation to the industry of Perth and neighbourhood. He not only established bleaching works, but entered into extensive dealings in the purchase and sale of linen goods. His dealings were too heavy for his capital, and in a few years he failed in business; his greatest debts were due to creditors in England. McAlpine's works and leases fell into

**M'Alpine's
Enterprise.**

Improved Spinning.

other hands, and the works were more or less continued. They are yet, by the firm of Messrs. Lumsden & Mackenzie.

Annual Increase.

The manufacture of linen continued to be annually extended. Greater crops of flax were raised, and better dressed. The seeds were more skilfully preserved. Larger quantities were imported to make up the deficiency raised elsewhere. Another departure took place—the practice of spinning was diffused among the inhabitants of the Highlands. The spinners of some districts, notably Atholl, became very skilful in the art. The result was: cloths of a greater diversity of fabric were prepared; looms were multiplied; new markets were successfully tried.

Manufacturing Firms.

Perth firms: Cornfute & Milne; Garvie and Deas; Laurence Pullar, Coates and Co.; Balfour & Shields, now the big establishment known world-wide as John Shields and Co., Ltd., Wallace Works, Perth.

Lint-Seed.

New Industry.

Still another development took place at Perth. Other branches of the trade and industry shared in the prosperity. The preparation of lint-seed oil had for a considerable time been in vogue in Perth. The first mill for that purpose was erected by John, Duke of Atholl, about the beginning of 1700. The mills for the preparation of lint-seed oil were

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at length multiplied to four! The quantity treated was about 300 tons annually, which was exported, giving a financial return of about £9,000. This was good enterprise by the Atholl family, and good business. A side-light: at this time lint-seed oil was highly esteemed medicinally—and as a liquid; a glass of whisky mixed with half-a-glass of lint-seed oil was a favourite dram!

A Dram !

Cotton.

The East Indies long supplied our country with cotton. Then it was introduced into Scotland; Perth immediately took it up. When it had once obtained a footing, it continued to make way. The abbreviation of labour by machinery first contributed to the success of cotton manufacture. First coarse cotton, and then finer varieties were tried with good results. The princely fortune acquired by Sir Richard Arkwright, and the manufacturing success of Manchester, and Lancashire generally, was the result. New cotton works were erected in all parts of the country. Glasgow led the way in Scotland; other places followed. Notably so at Stanley and Blairgowrie. Water-power was an advantage factor at Perth and other places. The industry obtained a hold in Perth. Several mills were erected for the spinning of cotton-yarn. Some of the established linen bleachers were induced to unite the manufacture of cotton. Raw cotton was imported into Perth, and into Dundee direct from the West Indies. The mer-

**Stanley and
Blairgowrie.**

Perth Enterprise.

Old-Time Firms.

chants of Glasgow in some instances furnished the cotton-spinners of Perth with raw cotton. There was more cotton-cloth woven in Perth, than yarn spun. The manufacturers of Perth pushed ahead establishments to provide yarn for themselves, and to export rather than import.

Printed Cloth.

McAlpine's influence as to the printing of cotton cloth did not pass away with him. This branch of cotton manufacture continued, and was carried on at almost every bleachfield. The apparatus for the printing of cloth was expensive, but the returns were good. Accommodation for work-people had to be found, and Huntingtower Castle, the one-time home of the Earls of Ruthven, and the scene of James VI.'s short captivity in the "Raid of Ruthven," was turned into apartment houses—it was recently conveyed to the nation by Major W. L. Mercer of Huntingtower, and in turn partially restored by the National Monuments Committee. The cotton articles printed included handkerchiefs, ladies' dresses, furniture covering, etc. At this time an extensive printfield was established by Messrs. Young, Ross, Richardson, and Caw. While this business was successfully going on, a suggestion was made to try bleaching by the use of oxygenated muriatic acid, at that time held in high honour by M. Berthelot. Thus science is never at rest. At the present time bleaching on grass has largely passed away.

Paper Mills.

About the period in question two or three paper-mills had been established in Perth. The manufacture of paper was lucrative for a time. In addition to what was obtained at home, rags were imported from the Continent. At that time the northern part of the kingdom did not nearly manufacture the quantity of paper it required. Messrs. Lindsay and Morison had two paper-mills near Perth. The same preparation of oxigenated muriatic acid had been applied to the cleaning of rags as the bleaching of linen and cotton. Mr. Creech, the publisher who befriended Burns in one edition of his poems, showed paper by this process at about the third of the cost of ordinary paper.

**Lindsay &
Morison.**

Banking.

From paper to pound-notes is a simple transition. Increase of trade caused a new bank to be formed in Perth, and thus came into being the Perth Banking Company, the proprietors of the stock of which were gentlemen of Perth and its environs. Success begat success. A branch of the Bank of Scotland was also established at Perth. Banks have ever a good influence on industry, on trade, and on people generally. They are an evidence of stability, and an incentive to judicious trading and saving.

**Banks in
Perth.**

The Benefit of Money.

Public improvements are largely possible through Bank credits. This is

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

New Streets.

especially so when a town enters upon new schemes for the general good of itself and its inhabitants. In the eighteenth century, two big municipal improvements were entered upon—in the beginning of 1700 the formation of St. John Street from South Street to High Street was conceived and completed; towards the end of 1700, the formation of George Street from High Street to Perth Bridge was undertaken with splendid results. In both cases, dirty narrow closes and worse houses were cleared away, and business streets took their place. Perth Bridge itself was built between the years 1766 and 1771. The enterprise of Perth in the period indicated was commendable.

A Market Town.

Market Days.

Like other towns adjoining a large stretch of pasturage and arable land and the Highlands, Perth was a market town two hundred years ago, and is still. On Fair-days (held on Fridays) and on Saturdays the streets were crowded (as they still are) with people from adjacent parts. This was especially so on Little Dunning Market in October. Many business transactions took place with advantage to country sellers and city buyers and vice versa. But a large mass of the people attending used these days as a riotous holiday—meetings took place, copious libations of whisky were drunk. These, at first, brightened the wit and warmed the affections, and thus promoted good fellowship. As the "affec-

tions" were warmed, the sense of dignity increased in every Highlander's breast, his honour became more punctilious, and his valour fiercer. In conversation, differences of opinion accidentally (or intentionally) arose, and an irritating word was spoken. Contention ensued; Highland honour was offended; Highland courage could no longer be restrained; a blow was given; uproar followed! The whole terminated in a desperate affray, producing blue eyes, loosened teeth, claret noses, and broken ribs. Hardly a market day passed but it produced work for the surgeon on the one hand, and the turnkey of the Tol-booth and the Magistrates on the other.

**Highland
Honour!**

Shipping.

Perth was a fair-sized port as to shipping as ports then were. Of earlier date, were the sea-going and trading interests of the famous Mercers, and some of their doughty deeds too, when they threatened to coup up the Mayor of London in his own port—but at Scarborough the winds were contrary. The Sandemans are credited with first coming as merchant traders from Scandinavia. Later big schooner traders from Perth were the Richardsons (salmon), Calder, and Grahams. In the hey-day of the prosperity of the five brothers of the latter firm, one of them declared that their ships went to not only all places of the known world, but to the unknown world!

**Perth
Schooners.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Smuggled Whisky.

Exeunt.

At an early period Perth exported cattle skins to Holland to be made into leather; later Perth made and exported shoes, tanned deer-skins and made such into gloves; and mention it not in Gath, they "imported" rum, brandy, and wine and sold such cheaper than anywhere else in Scotland. The inhabitants also drank "smuggled" whisky, and sang "Wha the divel hae we gotten for a King, but a wee, wee German lairdie!" Apart from the hides which were exported for leather, the horns and hoofs of the animals were retained at home for the making of spoons, etc., and a narrow thoroughfare in Perth is still called Horner's Lane. The antlers of deer served to make handles for table-knives, and even knives of larger size, by local cutlers. The Skinnergate of Perth (still existing) was where the glovers had their booths for the making and sale of gloves. Fully a hundred years ago Perth somewhat discarded foreign liquids, and took to the distilling of whisky—and has continued to do so ever since.

Perth Houses.

Housing.

A notable improvement also took place about this time in Perth as to buildings facing the principal streets. Hitherto these had been more or less built of wood faced up with cement. A nice type of building, but very unsafe. When a fire took place, which was a frequent occurrence, lives were lost, and the

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

buildings burned to the ground. The Town authorities prohibited the erection of such buildings. Even where no lives were lost people were ruined by their houses or business premises being consumed by the flames. Insurance was then unknown. We do these things better in Perth nowadays with the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Ltd., with headquarters in Perth established in 1885, and with such a live wire at its head as Mr. F. Norie-Miller as a director and general manager.

**Need for
Insurance.**

The High Commissioner at Edinburgh

Scottish Nationality and Civic
Responsibility

Scotland.

A Great Past and a Prospective Future

One of the few "ceremonials" still left to Scotland as a nation is that of the opening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh every year as near as possible to the 24th May. On such occasion, the King, as represented by a High Commissioner (the Earl of Stair this year (1928) as for past three years) makes public recognition of the Protestant religion, and grants £2,000 for the purpose of services being held in the Highlands and Islands. Holyrood Palace is occupied for the time being by the High Commissioner, his family, and by the ladies and gentlemen-in-attendance.

Representation.

A National Setting.

Levees are held of members of Scottish municipalities, leading clergymen for the time-being, etc., to which are added as a real Scottish national setting the Royal Archers of Scotland, Royal Academy members, representatives of the Edinburgh Merchant Company (equivalent to Perth Guildry), members of the Court of Session and Advocates, and an imposing array of military—this

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

year the cavalry consisted of the ever-popular Scots Greys (newly returned from India) and the Cameron Highlanders (the old 79th) in their red speckled tartan and officers with white hackle. All Army services with depots in Edinburgh are represented—Royal Artillery, etc., etc.

A Gorgeous Display.

The whole makes a gorgeous display of uniforms to which fall to be added the Royal Heralds of Scotland in their lion-rampant tabards of gold and silk, and decorations. On such an occasion, too, military and other medals are worn, and it is an impressive sight to see and admire comparatively young Scotsmen with from half-a-dozen to a dozen medals and ribbons conferred for deeds of bravery on the field of battle or for notable services rendered in councils of peace.

High Commissioner's Day in Edinburgh never fails to impress—you may have witnessed a similar ceremony fifty years with changed circumstances, different people, but the one-time "Walk" never fails to impress and please. In the long ago ere wheeled-vehicles were in existence, the "great recognition" was literally a walk, as many other Scottish Church events have been; then Sedan chairs appeared, and still later people took to carriages with postillions—now the mode of conveyance is the modern fast and smooth going motor car and chauffeur.

**Scottish
Pomp.**

**One-Time
Walk.**

Church Union.

On Holiday.

Edinburgh holds holiday on High Commissioner Day; streets are guarded by police, and lined by thousands of the populace. From early morning there is a stir everywhere—Edinburgh is proud to be in reality the Capital of Scotland for a week and a day; levees, luncheons, garden parties, recognitions, sederunts, meetings, etc., are held everywhere and every day and every evening.

The chief business for this year 'is Church Union—between the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church.

Scottish Ministers.

Amid much Scottish national display and military pomp, Scottish ministers are everywhere, and live everywhere—in hotels, private apartments, with relatives, friends, and so on. It is good for Scotland, even for those who come from the West, and the East, and the North, and the South, that such a "meeting" should take place in Edinburgh once a year. Scotland would be all the better for more nationality; aye, and even less political panoply. On such an occasion as High Commissioner's Day, good weather is a big factor in the event, and despite all that is adversely said about Edinburgh being east-windy, and rainy, Old Sol seems to mark his calendar as "set fair" for the occasion—it is a coincidence, but the weather is well-nigh invariably favourable on this particular day. This allows of people getting about early, and comfortably for the

Big Occasion.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

great event. Levees, etc., as indicated, have got to be held and good weather and sunshine make such a difference for all concerned.

Scottish Nationality.

High Commissioner's Day is really a clerical or Church event, but the levees, garden parties, etc., expand it into out-and-out appreciated Scottish nationality. The magistrates of the principal cities in Scotland are invited to Holyrood, St Giles, and the General Assembly. Betimes these public bodies have to be on the move. Edinburgh has the advantage, being the "home" Town Council. It means an early travel for Perth, Glasgow, Dundee, and Aberdeen. Arrived in Edinburgh, the various Town Councils tak' aff their several ways to their particular hotels. Here there is a dress up and a dress rehearsal and robes and hats donned, motors entered, and a move made for Holyrood Palace. The palace portals are entered amid a thousand memories of Scottish history, some great and good for the country, others tragic and evil—good and evil are present everywhere in the world, even in palaces.

The Capital.

In a mild way this is soon apparent—of old time Perth was the Capital of Scotland; the murder of King James I. in Blackfriars Monastery of Perth, caused the "capital" to be removed to Edinburgh. There is a disposition nowadays to regulate and recognise every-

**Perth
Magistrates.**

**Perth and
Edinburgh.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

thing municipally according to population. But Perth stands out against this, and stands out successfully, alike through being second on the roll of the Royal Burghs of Scotland at the annual convention of such, and on High Commissioner's Day in May.

1928.

**In the Year
1928.**

This year (1928) Perth Town Council were represented by Bailie Peter Baxter, acting (for the day) Lord Provost of Perth, Lord Dean of Guild Thomson, Bailie Henderson, Bailie Macgregor, and Treasurer Scott, with Mr. Robt. Adam, Town Clerk. At Holyrood, Perth saw to it that it had its honoured place next to Edinburgh, with Glasgow third, Dundee fourth, and Aberdeen and other bodies following. In this order were the Town Councils placed at the Royal Commissioner Levee, at St Giles' Cathedral, at the General Assembly Hall, and again at Holyrood Palace for luncheon. As became patriotic Scots, and interested in a similar work, the Magistrates of Perth paid a visit to the Scottish National Memorial at Edinburgh Castle, and viewed with admiration the beautiful conception of "Remembrance" to the many Scottish Regiments engaged in the late Great War and to the many Scots who gave their lives for others and for their country's good and the continuance of Great Britain as a nation. A Perth Magistrates' day in Edinburgh in connection with the High Commissioner's visit to the Church of Scotland is not

**National
Memorial.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

only a great but a crowded day of events and ceremonies.

Thought.

But after it is all over, it is not a matter of the profit and the pleasure ending, but of thought and future outlook rising higher and higher. Aforetime, it has been declared as to the ill-faring of a land where material wealth might increase and moral worth of men might decay. It will ever be good for a nation where such does not take place, and the same may be said in regard to individuals.

And in this one passes from the wish to the watchful. Perth's past has ever been one worthy to be looked up to and to be proudly remembered—as a Royal Burgh and a City it stands as one of the representative towns of Scotland alike for its past history, its present day importance, and its central situation.

It is meet and right that its municipality for the time-being, and its natives and inhabitants at all times should ever keep Perth in an honoured position in their thoughts and in their practice. What should be good and what is good for Perth should be and is good for Scotland. It is right for Scotland to continue as a nation and take part in every function suited to Scottish nationality not only at home, but abroad.

The Instituting.

It is interesting to note how the High Commissioner came into being. The Reformation of the Church as then exist-

**Wealth and
Decay.**

**Perth and
Scotland.**

Freedom and the Evangel.

ing in Scotland took place in 1559. The relationship of the reigning monarch to the Church of Scotland as constituted by the will of the people early arose. The question was pointedly raised at the second sitting of the new Assembly in 1561—"Whether the Queen allowed such conventions." Knox's reply was—"Take from us the freedom of the Assembly, and you take from us the Evangel." If the then reigning Queen wished to know what was being done she could send a commissioner, who could in turn report to her.

The State.

The State did not recognise the General Assembly for a time, and in 1576 and 1577 Regent Morton refused deputations.

James VI. took over the government of the kingdom in 1580, and the opposite course was followed. The King attended the General Assembly personally five times in the following eight years. All went well till the attempted forcing of Episcopacy on Scotland. The country did not want it, and were determined not to have it; thus came into being the Covenanters.

Differences.

Revolution Period.

The Marquis of Hamilton was High Commissioner at the Glasgow Assembly in 1638—Hamilton "dismissed" the Assembly, but the Assembly (without Hamilton) continued "sitting." The General Assembly became a law to itself within the law, and some 39 meetings were held with the High Commissioner "absent."

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Royalty and the Church.

Royalty and the Church ultimately saw eye to eye with each other, and, since 1694, the High Commissioner, as representing the Crown, has attended with military pomp, and in turn invites certain large municipalities to attend at levees, etc. The Earl of Rothes (representing George I.) took ill while acting as High Commissioner in 1717.

**Jacobite
Period.**

Incidents.

The Jacobite period saw a hitch in 1746—the official commission not having come to hand, the High Commissioner at first sat as a private individual. In the year 1761, the Keeper of the Great Seal died, and for two days Lord Cathcart, who was High Commissioner, also sat as a private individual. It may be an “incidental” reminder of the time when the General Assembly sat without the Queen’s or King’s sanction, for present procedure is for the General Assembly to constitute itself and appoint its own Moderator ere the High Commissioner officially gives the King’s message and a donation for the spread of the Protestant faith.

Commissioners.

Within recent years Perth has several times supplied the High Commissioner—the Duke of Atholl, the Marquis of Breadalbane, Lord Kinnaird, etc.

Perth.

Perth's Water Supply

Many Sources; Many Suggestions
Lade, Loch, and River

Scotland.

"Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink," is the condition of Father Neptune's "territory." Perth district abounds with some of the largest lochs and rivers in Scotland, and yet Perth city has always been "unsettled" as to a domestic water supply.

Tradition.

Tradition credits the Romans with forming the Town's Lade to lay on water to fill a ditch to serve as a means of defence of the city. By the time that the earliest Perth chroniclers make mention of Perth as a walled city, the Romans had gone hundreds of years. The Castle of Perth, the walls of the city, and water-ways outside—to north, south, and west, with the Tay on the east—emerge out of a haze of uncertainty as to the building of the one and the forming of the other.

William the Lion.

The Year
1200.

We are down to the time of William the Lion in the early years of 1200 ere we have a hold of real history on the subject. Then the exploits of Wallace and Bruce and of Edward I. of England tell of Perth taken, re-taken, and again taken; of the city walls being scaled, broken down, re-built, and so on to the time of Cromwell in 1650-5.

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Military Power and Commerce.

One is safe in hazarding the guess that the Town's Lade was formed as a military matter (when Perth was made a walled city), or to drive the Mills, rather than an early water supply. When the Perth Meal Mills were first built may be taken as unknown. The earliest mention is in the Register of the Privy Council which tells that John Mercer, of Perth, is said to have gifted to King Malcolm Canmore (1046-1102) his three water mills at Perth in return to a right of burial for his family in a vault in St. John's Church—which still exists. King Robert III. gifted the mills in turn to Perth, and they have continued city property ever since.

**John
Mercer.**

Interesting Surmise.

An interesting surmise by the present Burgh Surveyor, Mr. Thomas McLaren, is that the principal portion of the water course below the City Mills in early times flowed southwards and eastwards (now Methven Street and Canal Crescent) and entered the Tay at foot of Canal Street; that the Mill Street part was little more than a wide open ditch in the time of Robert the Bruce, and that it was considerably later before the Mill Street portion of the Lade (flowing directly eastward) formed the principal water course, as it does at the present time.

**Robert
the Bruce.**

Time Immemorial.

From time immemorial people have dug in the earth for water, and instinct

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

"The Pump."

(to put it no higher) caused man to supply his needs by digging wells, and by various means raising the water to the surface.

Early Wells.

A general view of Scotland, and especially of towns as then existing, was for wells to be dug (at varying depths) in gardens and backyards. On water being found, a bucket and a rope were the simple utensils used to raise it to the surface; in later times the circular well was lined to a considerable depth with stone and a windlass used. Then followed suction pumps of wood, or iron, later referred to where alleged adulteration of milk took place, as "The Coo wi' the Iron Tail." A larger type was a windmill, still used on some farms.

Scotland.

Changed Conditions.

What ruled throughout Scotland, ruled in Perth, as to a water supply—a large and deep cavity in the garden or backyard, and as much protection as possible given to the "well" that it would not be polluted from above whatever the quality of the water might be at the rock, or sand, where the water was struck. But towns increased in size alike as to area of ground covered and number of inhabitants. The discovery of coal led to its being burned, and the ash not unfrequently deposited, along with other household refuse, in the old-fashioned ash-pit—a place which also received more objectionable matter. Garden

wells in cities were bound to in time become contaminated, and the water of unwholesome quality.

Lack of Sanitation.

The Plague, otherwise known as the "black-death," which again and again visited Scotland (and England) in 1500 and 1600, was renewed by increase of pigstyes and unwholesome deposits in 1800-1850 which led to the scourge of Cholera, and later by similar if less severe infectious troubles. Modern sanitation, if expensive so far as rates are considered, gives longer and happier lives to inhabitants of towns.

The Penalty.

Interesting Reading.

The first "laying on" of a water supply to Perth makes interesting reading. There is an antidote for every evil—if we but knew where to look for it. Perth found this to be true in a partial way.

1750.

About 1750, a movement began in Perth to form new streets and to build on the many pieces of ground (they were called 'spots' in legal documents) in the town. As it was not always convenient (nor satisfactory) to acquire water by means of sunk wells, the question arose as to getting (from somewhere) a supply of water, especially for domestic purposes, and also to suit a number of tanneries then existing in the town, but now alas gone.

Other Means.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**In the Year
1759.**

**Estimate,
£150.**

Town's Lade.

Thus according to the Town Council minutes of 2nd April, 1759, a proposal was discussed as to taking a supply of water from the Town's Lade, and as to the getting of estimates as to cost of same. The matter went on, a water supply was got, and it continued for seventy years.

A Resume.

A resume of Perth's first "laid on" water supply is of great interest. As previously mentioned, what has now come to be known as the Town's Lade is taken off the Almond, near Almond-bank, at a place called Lowswark. To the north of Perth City Mills was a Waulk, or Lint Mill, now part of the premises of Perth Foundry. On the east side of the lade was a large area of ground named Drumharr, and most of it now the site of Perth Barracks.

Maggie's Park.

A small part yet remaining is called Maggie's Park. In the vicinity was erected a large cistern. But the City Fathers of those days did not rush into a water supply without considering the cost—and who was to pay it. Mr. P. McGilliwie (of date 11th June, 1762) gave an estimate for a reservoir at Drumharr conveying water to eleven different places in wooden pipes for £150, which was approved of.

Wooden Pipes.

The Town was to give the trees for pipes from the Burghmuir and carriage,

if the sum mentioned be raised by subscription among the inhabitants. The trees were about 8-ins. diameter, 4-ins. bore for the water to pass through, and in lengths of about 3-ft., but sometimes as long as 20-ft., placed end to end. Specimens of these interesting old wooden water pipes may be seen in King James VI. Hospital and in Perth Museum. When the system was discarded the wooden pipes were left in the ground, but have been come upon and sections lifted as curiosities.

Looking Backwards.

One looks backwards with profit on the details of the introduction of a water supply by means of wooden pipes. The first Town Council minute (1795) on the subject is as follows:—

"The Council recommend to the Magistrates to apply to proper skilled persons for making an estimate of the expenses of building a reservoir at the Common Milns for holding a sufficient quantity of water from the Miln Lead, and for conveying the said water in pipes to different places of the town, and to lay the said estimate before the Council as soon as may be."

The next minute is of four years later. At a meeting of the Council on 18th January, 1762, a petition was submitted by Patrick McGilliwie, glover in Perth, setting forth "the great necessity of having good and wholesome water brought in to the town," and proposing to bring the water from the "Town's Miln Lead above the upper Waulk Miln," and to build a house on the lands of Drumharr for a reservoir and filter, and to bring the water from thence in wooden pipes to eleven different places within the town, and to maintain the reservoir and pipes for a period of seven years after the completion of the work.

**Still to be
Seen.**

**166 Years
Ago.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Timber for Pipes.

Cautious.

Such are the two principal minutes on the subject and form part of a few interesting jottings compiled a few years ago by Mr. H. Douglas, Deputy Town Clerk of Perth. But the Town Council were cautious, for they resolved to carry out the scheme at a certain date only so far as the funds admitted. Yet a water supply for Perth for £150! Before any of the timber on the Burgh Muir was to be cut for pipes, "security is to be given to the satisfaction of the Magistrates for building the reservoir, and bringing the water in the pipes according to the plan, down the Highgate to the north end of the Watergate," goes another minute. Bailie Young protested against the use of wooden pipes (and not lead) which he alleged would only last a few years. Some of them lasted considerably over 150 years! For some reason or other the pipes were re-lifted a few years later (1777) and laid deeper from the Meal Vennel eastwards. While this was being done the High Street was re-causewayed.

Found all Right.

The System.

The High Street, as the principal street of the town, had been supplied with water, and presumably the new system had been found satisfactory. In 1765, three years afterwards, the Town Council approved of the extension of the pipes along Newrow (then being formed), Hospital Street, and down South Street to the Watergate, the full

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

£150 guarantee being subscribed by 4th February of this year. Later the wooden pipes were laid into the Fleshmarket on the petition of "the Fleshers of Perth, through the Guildry Close and yard to the Fleshmarket, and cause set a water cock in each of the two mercat places."

Private Pipes.

Then followed permissions to Mr. Murray, Dean of Guild Caw, Dr. Wood, and Dean of Guild Alison, all in Watergate, then the fashionable residential quarter of the town, for grants of water-pipes at 1s. yearly during the pleasure of the authorities. These "grants" were re-called in 1791. Captain Joseph Austin was granted permission "to carry a pipe from the main water pipe in South Street to his back close and brewhouse for the use of his family, and under condition that the cock on the pipe should be kept shut except when water was wanted for his own family." Mr. John Scott, wright in Perth, was appointed to maintain the pipes for a sum of £12 per annum.

Water Carriers.

At one time, before the supply was obtained from the Lade, individuals carried water from the Tay for domestic use as often as required in the course of the day for a consideration—"iron wells" (short standards) erected on the streets to allow of the inhabitants (by means of an iron key) to draw water as required were introduced after the present system was laid down. Some of these

**Privilege at
1/- Yearly.**

**Was it
1d per Pail?**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Satisfied for
20 Years.**

"iron wells" continue to the present day. A number of years ago they were very "useful" as vaulting horses for school boys. A later idea, and one still appreciated, was the erection of large ornamental drinking fountains at prominent parts of the city.

Thirty Years.

For a period of over twenty years the citizens appeared to have been satisfied with the Lade as a source of water supply for domestic purposes. In 1785, however, either the quantity, or quality, was found deficient, or public opinion demanded a change. In that year the Town Council appointed a Committee to enquire where a sufficient quantity of spring water could be got for bringing into the town for domestic use, and an estimate of the cost thereof. The proposals included water from Clathymore (Tibbermore) and from the St. Magdalene's district of Craigie. The spring water scheme did not come off, and other thirty or forty years passed in which various plans were under consideration, including the filtering of the Lade water.

Various Plans.

**Then
Dissatisfied.**

The plans included suggestions to take water from the Almond at Cromwell Park Falls; from the Tay at Campsie Linn, near Stanley; and wells at St. Leonard's Bank.

1796-7.

In 1796-7, the Town Council considered as to a Bill for bringing in a new water

The Fair Maid's House



OF SIR WALTER SCOTT'S famous Novel, "The Fair Maid of Perth," stands at the corner of Blackfriars Wynd and Curfew Row, near to where stood the Castle of Perth and the historic Blackfriars Monastery, where King James I. of Scotland was assassinated in 1437.

¶ In 1396, Simon, the Deacon Glove Maker, sold his Special Make of Gloves : To-day, we sell our specially-made SOUVENIRS in China, Brass, Silver, and E.P.S.

ANTIQUES, ETC.

Visit The Fair Maid's House when in Perth

PROPRIETOR: A. SCOTT



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PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

supply. Later a report was given as to the state of the public wells of the town. The City Fathers actually in 1815 voted a sum of £50 to be spent in "investigating" as to where water could be got by gravitation to supply the town. To get water in sufficient quantity (and of good quality) was the difficulty. Mr. W. M. Mackenzie and Mr. Ballantyne (of the Guildry) "reported" and "advised" on the matter in 1827.

Dr. Anderson.

At this point, Dr. Anderson, Rector of Perth Academy, and afterwards Professor of Natural Philosophy in St. Andrews University, came on the scene. Various possible sources were once more mentioned—loch, hill, and meadow in a way, for one of the proposals was to form a system in the sandy soil in the centre of the North Inch, but the water was too saline, due to a bed of clay which runs underneath Perth. Other schemes were the forming of filter beds on Moncreiffe Island, the small Stanners Island, and on the Sawmill Stream Island opposite Springland Tower, all on the Tay at Perth or a little apart from it. By this time the year 1829 had been reached.

From the River.

Penny, in his "Traditions," gives the best account of the subsequent proceedings. "In the year 1829, an Act of Parliament was obtained for supplying the city with water, under a set of 18 Commissioners, with power to assess the in-

**In 1827
and 1829.**

**Present
System.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

A Useful Ornament.

habitants in proportion to their rents. This was obtained (under Dr. Anderson's suggestion) by digging a filtering well at the upper end of Moncreiffe Island (close to the Willowgate), from whence the water passes through sand and gravel into a settling tank, and is conveyed below the bed of the river (in iron pipes) to the Waterhouse at Marshall Place. This building is erected on an elegant plan (Trajan's famous column at Rome), and is an ornament to the city. The whole of the operations were conducted under the direction of Dr. Anderson, of the Academy, with the most complete success. (The water was pumped by beam engines of the Stevenson type to a cistern over the Pump-house). Trials were made to ascertain how high the water would rise from the pipes in the street, which was found to ascend to the roofs of the highest houses at the Cross." The water was also to rise to the highest part of St. Leonard's Causeway. Triple expansion engines are at present in use.

Changes.

Reservoirs Introduced.

Years afterwards it was found advisable to do away with the tank over the Pump-house and build water reservoirs on high points outwith the city, viz., Wellshill, Burghmuir, Muirhall, etc. Dr. Adam Anderson, while in Perth, lived in the southmost house of St. Leonard's Bank, then newly built, and ere the introduction of the railway. A little to the west stood St. Leonard's

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Priory. Perth's water scheme and supply of 1829 is well summed up in the inscription on the Waterhouse:—

Perth Water Works.

Designed and Completed under the Superintendence of Adam Anderson, LL.D., F.R.S.L. & E.
1832.

Aquam Igne et Aqua Haurio.

(I draw water by fire and water.)

A Report.

In 1834 (two years after the completion of the work) Dr. Anderson wrote an interesting report on the matter (printed by Morisons, Perth, in 1837), which is preserved in Perth Town Council archives.

Years ago an accident befell the top of the beautiful chimney column, but it was repaired. It forms a distinctive feature at the corner of Marshall Place and Tay Street.

Gas.

Dr. Anderson was also engineer for the first gas supply to Perth, and the works built in Canal Street in 1824. Over the entrance was inscribed "Non fumum ex fulgore, sed ex fumo dare lucem" (Not to elicit smoke from splendour, but light from smoke).

Fifty Years Ago.

Some fifty years ago (circa 1876) an agitation began to take form in Perth against the then existing water supply. Allegations were made that the Tay was becoming polluted by household sewage and chemical and dye works outflow,

**A Printed
Report.**

**Present
Generation.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Sand and
Gravel.**

opposite the city and further north, when held up by the tide.

Again and again, Perth water was sent to be analysed, and as often as it was sent—the result was favourable to the Tay! The large amount of sand and gravel which the water passed through was the antidote for all impurities, except adverse opinion. There were in Perth epidemics, but epidemics occurred elsewhere, and were simply irregular occurring abnormal conditions, which in time passed away. But the opposition did not.

Same Opinion Still.

**Only for a
Time.**

The "opposition" was of the same opinion still. The outcome of the affair was that eminent water engineers were consulted, and a proposal made to bring a domestic water supply to Perth from Loch Tay—a distance of nearly 40 miles. It was an "ideal" idea—all save the expense. Other engineers examined the supply in use. The parties went to Parliament. The result was somewhat of a compromise with improved island filter, pumping power, reservoirs, etc. One would have thought that "after the battle had been fought and won," peace would have succeeded. It did so, but only for a time. Within a few years a cry of "scarcity of water" was raised. In turn this led to the forming of an additional filter-bed in the gravel to the north of Perth Bridge and the water being first conveyed across the river and then along the west side at Tay Street

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

in iron pipes to the Waterhouse. In a few years this filter-bed was declared to be iron-bound.

War v. Water.

A "water scare" was beginning to make its appearance, with as usual any number of suggested new systems—including an Artesian Well scheme—when the Great War broke out. Then Government departments, health boards, and Town Councils had to take into consideration the defence of the country, and life itself was of greater consideration than health. Soldiers in the war-zone had water chlorinated to prevent sickness, and the same measures were taken at home—even with Tay water at Perth. But the Great War passed away, and the "water war" re-started at Perth—in the first instance as to removal of sewage from the river, which was reported on, and dropped; then the Loch Ordie gravitation system which passed the Compulsory Order stage, and was later rejected by the ratepayers.

A Compulsory Order.

Another Compulsory Order, and the Woody Island scheme (which substituted a previous Bertha scheme) is in course of contract, with an additional reservoir at Viewlands. The Loch Ordie scheme was reckoned to cost about £300,000, exclusive of Government public works grants which might have reduced the cost to half the amount; the Woody Island scheme is hoped to be

**Deferred
for a Time.**

**Loch Ordie
Scheme.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Progress.

completed at a cost of under £100,000 (no Government grant). The new reservoir is expected to be completed this year. A new engine and boiler scheme is estimated to cost over £6,000. Difficulty has been experienced in crossing the River Tay with the iron pipes, at Rome fishing lodge. One contractor has given way to another during the progress of the work. Death has called away Mr. David Stewart, water manager, who was for 49 years in the service of the Town Council; he has been succeeded by Mr. Cyril Walmesley, Slaidburn, Lancashire.

Perth, Western Australia

Sir George Murray and the Capital

A Perthshire Soldier+Statesman

The recent visit of the Australian-Scots Delegation to the Old Country was of double import: patriotic and propagandic. Scottish-born Scots in Australia, and descendants of such, who had done well "Down Under," conceived the idea of a "big company" visit to Scotland. The visit was as successful as it was remarkable—notably so in Perth, where a civic welcome was given in the City Hall by Lord Provost Dempster, Miss Dempster, Dean of Guild Thomson, Bailie Jarvie, Bailie Baxter, Bailie Macgregor, and Treasurer Scott, with Mr. Robt. Adam, Town Clerk, to which hundreds of leading Perth citizens were invited and were present, speeches exceptionally appropriate to the occasion delivered, and an exhibition of Perth products laid out in the lesser hall. On the two succeeding days, "Australia" visits were paid to Millhills Farm, Crieff, on the invitation of Mrs. MacCallum Stewart, sen., and Mr. D. MacCallum Stewart, and to a garden party at Cleve, Perth, on the invitation of Mr. F. Norie-Miller, J.P., F.E.I.S.

Interesting Visits.

Friday forenoon was devoted to visiting the historic spots of Perth, St. John's

**Our Aussie
Cousins.**

Outings.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Places Visited.

(restored) Church, the great Scotch whisky distilling firms of Messrs. John Dewar & Sons, Ltd., and Messrs. A. Bell and Sons, the remarkable glassworks of Messrs. J. Moncrieff, Ltd., the famed linen works of Messrs. John Shields and Co., Messrs. Coates & Co., the General Accident Assurance Corporation's notable premises, viewing Messrs. J. Pullar and Sons' works (the largest dye-works in the world), Perth General Post-Office, Perth Academy and other Schools, Perth Royal Infirmary, Kinnoull Hill, the famous North and South Inches, Sandeman Library, King James VI. Hospital, Perth Live Stock Marts, Mercat Cross, Fire Brigade, Perth Municipal Buildings, etc.

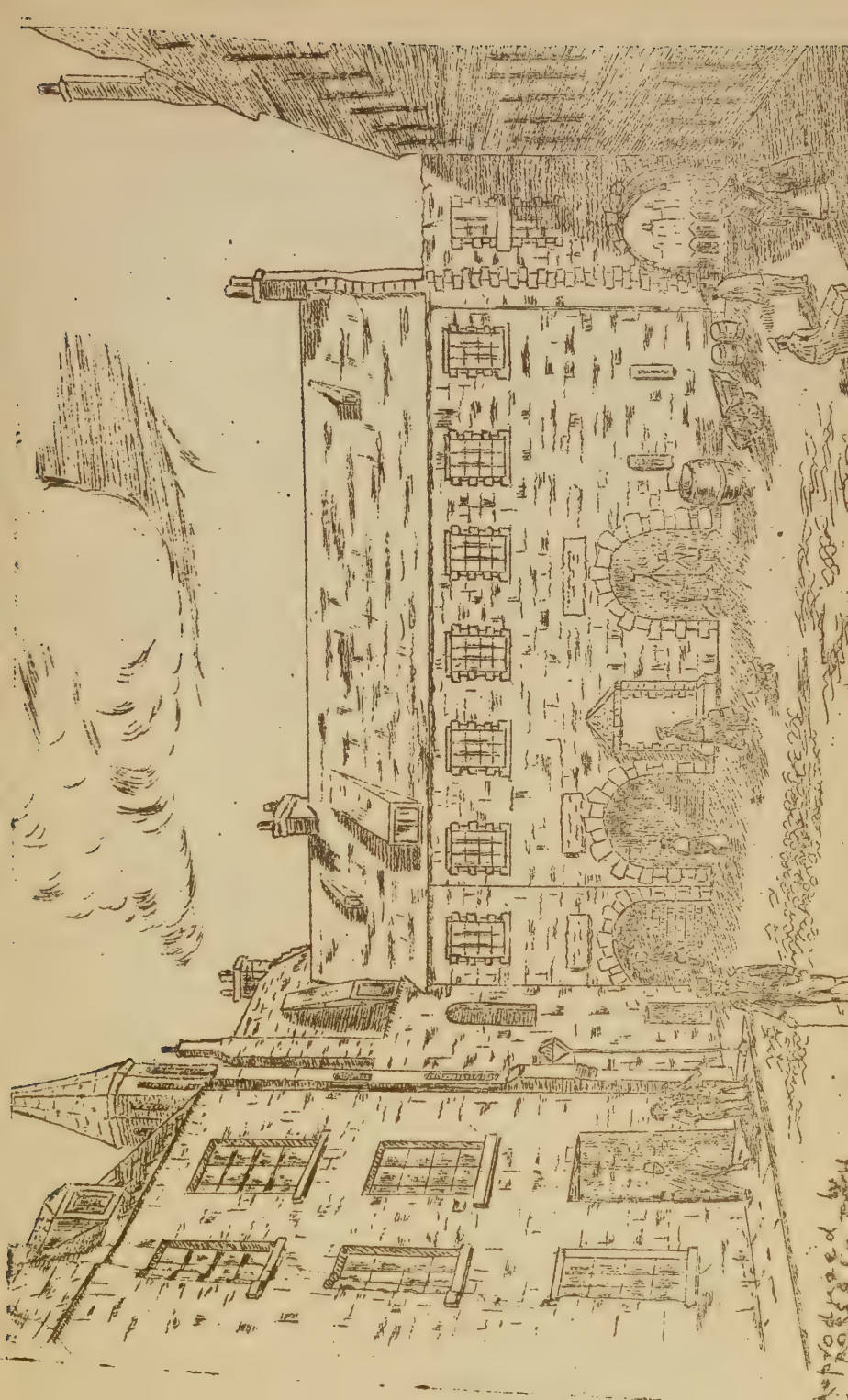
From Overseas.

Similarity.

There were representations from all the Overseas Colonies, and notably from the cities of Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane, Ballarat, Wellington, etc., and Perth, Western Australia. During the proceedings in the City Hall, an interesting letter was read from the Lord-Mayor of Perth, Western Australia, referring to how Perth, W.A., got its name; its situation and similarity, the one on the River Swan and the other on the River Tay, and the one had the heights of King's Park and the other the heights of Kinnoull.

An Interesting Story.

The Town Clerk of Fremantle, W.A. (Mr. Shepherd), told a rather good story while he was in Scotland with the dele-



gation, and although officially with the party which proceeded to Dundee, visited Perth for his letters. Tradition had it that a vessel which visited Western Australia was under the charge of a Captain Fremantle, R.N., and no sooner had his ship touched land in 1829 than he said this bit is to be called "Fremantle," and to this day Fremantle is the port for Perth, W.A. Prospecting for a site on which to build a town (the story goes on) they selected a spot, which was called "Perth," in honour of Sir George Murray, British Secretary of State for the Colonies, and who at that time represented Perth, Scotland, in Parliament.

History Books.

This story fits in well with one's early reading as to Western Australia and Captain Cook in 1770 and his circumnavigation of the globe and of the island-continent of Australia. It should never be forgotten that Australia is by far the largest island on the earth's surface—a length from west to east of about 2,400 miles, a breadth from north to south of 1,971 miles, with a total area of almost 3,000,000 square miles, one-fourth less than that of Europe, and more than 25 times that of Great Britain and Ireland. Old maps show that Western Australia was sighted in 1522. Dutch explorers were in Australia in the early years of 1600. Australia was first seen by British eyes by Dampier in 1688.

Botany Bay.

Botany Bay, in New South Wales, 5

**The Year
1829.**

**Sighted in
1522.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Port Jackson.

miles south of Sydney, was visited by Captain Cook in 1770, and named by him from the number of new plants in its vicinity. In 1787, Botany Bay was Great Britain's first penal colony in the east. Though it was supplanted next year by Port Jackson, a better harbour to the north, it long continued to be the popular designation of the Australian convict settlements generally. The first "settlement" consisted of 1,030 persons, of whom 757 were convicts, and was a penal settlement from 1851 to 1868. The founding of Western Australia on the Swan River took place in 1829, and that date is to be celebrated as its centenary.

A Link.

There was celebrated at St. James', Spanish Place, London, the other day the marriage of Miss Veronica Mansfield to Mr. Basil Parson. A daughter of Mr. Joseph Mansfield, of Perth, Western Australia, her grandfather, with George Randall, owned the first boats, known as "old puffing Billies," to trade on the River Swan from Fremantle to the Swan Settlement (now Perth, Western Australia). Miss Mansfield's great-great-grandmother, Jane Sophie Swifte, married Count de Molende, a staff officer to George IV.

River Swan Colony.

The Two Perthes.

It will be of interest to Perth Scots to know that Perth, Western Australia, is one of the most prosperous of Australian towns. Perth is the capital of Western

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Australia, 12 miles from its port town, Fremantle, on the right bank of the Swan River, occupying a picturesque site. The main street, two miles long, is planted with trees. The public buildings include the Government House, Parliament House, Governor's Residence, two cathedrals, Mechanics Institute and Museum, insurance offices, schools, etc. A unique fact is that a number of Scottish-Perth born people or their descendants are inhabitants of Perth, W.A.

Perth Born.

Praise.

Mr. A. K. Bell, of Perth (Scot.), who has just returned to the Fair City after a business trip to Aussie and New Zealand, says that Perth, W.A., is one of the best towns in Australia. High praise!

Too Well-Known in London.

It is possible that Perth, Western Australia, is known in London to the disadvantage of Perth, Scotland. "Wha wad hae thocht it?" The Scot has to forgive the English a lot of things—the daeing o' daft things! Instances: a number of years ago, while the late Mr. Alex. Wright was proprietor of the "Perthshire Courier," he considered that he could do with an additional printing machine, and gave the order to a London printers' traveller. The machine was to be delivered in Perth at a certain date. The date arrived, but no machine! Enquiries were made, and it was found that the machine had been sent to, not

**Somewhat
Awkward.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Entitled to
Protest.

Perth, Scotland, but to Perth, Western Australia, where it was sold to save cost of re-freight. Another machine was sent to Perth, Scotland!

Messrs. James McEwen & Co., ladies' dress specialists, St. John Street, Perth, have on occasions sent urgent orders to London for goods, and instead of getting the goods by return as expected, found that they had been sent to Perth, Western Australia. Perth, Scotland, is entitled to protest!

A Hundred Years.

The matter of a hundred years ago, and the gold rush later, makes one take up the story as to the conditions existing at that time in Scotland (and they were much the same in England and Ireland). A disposition towards evil in individuals and a want of sufficient prevention and detection of crimes and offences caused a condition of things to exist detrimental in every way to a proper acceptance of what was right and wrong in many individuals.

The Law.

Botany Bay.

But the law asserts itself although often tardy in doing so; the result was—penal servitude for life, or for a number of years at Botany Bay. One may narrow the subject down to Perth itself. Thus, at a Circuit Court held in the city in April, 1839, there were three cases in which the persons implicated were found guilty and sentenced to fourteen years' transportation; one or two cases in

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

which the sentences were ten years' transportation; and no fewer than nineteen in which the sentences were seven years' transportation! These were the days of severe sentences. On some days the Court sat from nine o'clock in the morning till ten o'clock at night, the presiding judges being Lord Moncrieff and Lord Cockburn, with Mr. Cosmo Innes (afterwards a well-known writer on Scottish education), advocate depute. At this Court in Perth there were set down for trial no fewer than 49 cases!

**Old-Time
Names.**

A Ruined Week.

The sitting of the Circuit Court (and the morbid interest excited) ruined "the week" at the Perth Theatre Royal, Atholl Street, in which the celebrated Mr. Sheridan Knowles and Miss Elphinstone gave the plays of "The Maid of Mariendorff" (then just out), "The Love Chase," "The Hunchback," "Woman's Wit," "The Wrecker's Daughter," and "William Tell." Such performers and such plays were a great treat for Perth play-goers of that date, but the financial response was a poor one for Mr. Sheridan Knowles, who had lately played in Drury Lane, Covent Garden, and Haymarket Theatres, of London.

**Sheridan
Knowles.**

Distress,

Political feeling was also high at this time over the Reform Bill of 1832, and shipbuilding distress which then prevailed in Perth. But distress was not confined to one part of the world at this

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Christened "Perth."

period, nor to one kind. There was agricultural distress in Perth, Western Australia. In 1832, information reached Great Britain that the merchant ship "Sulphur" had left the Swan River with the Governor on board, who was coming home to solicit the aid of the Government, without which, in his opinion, the colony of the Swan River, which was afterwards christened "Perth," must be abandoned as settlers could not supply themselves with provisions! But the Swan River colony survived its difficulties, and at the present day there are no better known ports on the western seaboard of Australia than Fremantle (12 miles by rail from Perth) and Albany, with Perth as the chief and most prosperous town of the rich gold-producing area of Coolgardie where, 270 miles from Perth, rich finds of gold were made in 1893, and quite reminiscent of Klondyke.

The Lure of Gold.

Activity v. Rest.

The lure of gold is ever irresistible. It was so in 1851. The world was wagging away in an ordinary manner in that year when the cry got up that gold was to be got for the picking up in Australia. Scotland was interested, and so was Perth. There are ever daring spirits in the world who want war rather than peace, adventure rather than artificing. There was a rush from all parts of Scotland, and from Perthshire and Perth. A notable case occurred in Stanley, seven miles from Perth. Three brothers of the name

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

of Lowe, all bakers, followed each other in succession during the gold rush, but afterwards took to their original occupations or farming. Their descendants to the second and third generations continue in Australia, more particularly in New South Wales.

The Rush.

In 1851, Australia had a population estimated at 350,000; the inrush of immigrants eager for gold, and other interests, in a few years sent the numbers up to 3,000,000; at the present time, it is about 6,000,000, and room and prosperity for more to expand the country as to wheat-growing, wool, fruit, wine, etc. Perth, Western Australia, specially invites the young settler who is willing to turn the bush into cultivation and uninhabited places into civilisation. It is at the present time much larger than Perth, Scotland, and it is of interest to know that many of the inhabitants of the newer Perth are natives of the older Perth.

Interesting and Romantic.

Home Scots, and especially Perth ones, should ever keep Perth, Western Australia, high in their thoughts. The more one reads, and knows, of our great namesake under the Southern Cross, and what it may yet be, makes the matter of its connection with Captain Cook and Captain Fremantle, R.N., interesting and romantic. It is with real pleasure one continues the subject, and asks as to how Perth, W.A., got its name, and

**Gold in
1851.**

**Captain
Cook.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Town Clerk
of Fremantle**

why. Lot's wife looked backed with disastrous results, but one ever turns back to history with profitable experiences.

Swan River Colony.

As previously indicated, the part of Australia which at present is specially under notice was at first called Swan River Colony, where the swans are black. The story of the Town Clerk of Fremantle fills up the rest—up to a point. But one wants to know more of the name "Perth" which was wafted from Scotland to Australasia.

Turning Back.

To get this one has to turn back to the eighteenth century, and follow up a military, and later a political career, which makes a good second to the better known Lord Lynedoch of Balgowan, Perthshire. This is Sir George Murray, of the family of Ochertyre, near Crieff. The Murray family in Scotland is divided into many "families," including those of the Duke of Atholl, the Earl of Mansfield, the Earl of Dunmore, Lord Elibank, all spelling their family name Murray, while there is the Earl of Moray of Dornoch, Kinfauns, Donibristle, and Doune, and many other Murrays referred to in the "Landed Gentry of Scotland."

**The
Murrays:**

A Military Career.

Sir Geo. Murray's military career was of such a varied and lengthy nature that it is difficult condensing it to fit into the subject. And yet it is well worthy to be given publicity to, and to being recalled,

for there is just a fear that it is being overlooked if not forgotten. It should not be. Many books of reference omit mention of Sir George Murray, which is a pity, especially from a Perthshire point of view. Some one has said that a second son is often the first one in ability. Without stopping to enquire into this issue, it is good that the "Dictionary of National Biography" gives a lengthy notice of the man and his career.

"D.N.B."

Sir George Murray.

Sir George Murray was born in 1772, and died in 1846. He was the second son of Sir William Murray, Bart., of Ochtertyre, Crieff, and Lady Augusta Mackenzie, seventh and youngest daughter of the third Earl of Cromarty, and was born at the family seat of Ochtertyre, Crieff, on 6th February, 1772. He was educated at the Royal High School and University of Edinburgh, and going into the Army, started as an Ensign in the 71st Regiment on 12th March, 1789; transferred to 34th Regiment, and later (1790) to 3rd Foot Guards. Served in Flanders in 1793, and was present at the engagements of St. Amand, Famars, Valenciennes, Lincelles, Dunkirk, and Lannoy. In 1794, was promoted Lieutenant with rank of Captain, and returned to Great Britain. Rejoined the Army in Flanders same year, and was at the retreat of the Allies through Holland and Germany.

Sir George's
Service.

Promotion.

In 1795, Sir George Murray was aide-

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Wounded
at Helder.**

de-camp to Major-General Alexander Campbell; on staff of Lord Moira's Army in the expedition for Quiberon; and in the West Indies under Sir Ralph Abercromby. Returned home on account of ill-health in 1796. In 1797-8, on Major-General Campbell's staff in England and Ireland. In 1799, was made Lieut.-Colonel of 3rd Guards, was on staff of Quartermaster-General on expedition to Holland, and wounded at Helder. Was for a time in Cork, Ireland, and in 1800 sailed for Gibraltar, and was sent on a special mission. In 1801, was in Egypt, and at the investment of Cairo and Alexandria.

1802-1814.

**Lord
Wellington.**

In 1802, Sir George was Adjutant-General of the forces in West Indies; in 1803, at Horse Guards; in 1804, Deputy Quartermaster-General in Ireland; in 1805, in Hanover; in 1806, in Ireland; in 1807, was in expeditions to Stalsund and Copenhagen; in 1808, in expedition to the Baltic under Sir John Moore, and then to Portugal, and at Battle of Corunna. Sir George Murray was in 1809 made Brevet Colonel and appointed Quartermaster-General to the forces in Spain and Portugal under Lord Wellington, and was present at Oporto and the passage of Douro, and at Vittoria. In 1811-12-13, in Ireland. In the latter year joined the Army in the Peninsula, and was present at Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive Orthes, and Toulouse, and the hostilities which terminated in 1814, during which he had been promoted Major-General and

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Colonel of 60th Regiment, and made a K.C.B. Again to Ireland, and then sent to govern the Canadas.

Napoleon and Waterloo.

On the escape of Napoleon from Elba, Sir George Murray obtained leave to join the Army in Flanders, but delays prevented him until Waterloo had been fought and gloriously won, and Paris occupied. As Chief of Staff he was with the Army of Occupation for three years. On his return home he was appointed Governor of Edinburgh Castle; later he was made Governor of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, a post which he held until 1824. In 1820, he was made a D.C.L. by Oxford, and in 1824, a Fellow of the Royal Society.

42nd Royal Highlanders.

In 1823, Sir George was made Colonel of the 42nd Royal Highlanders, in 1824 was appointed Lieut.-General of the Ordnance; in 1825, in command of the Forces in Ireland; in 1829, was Governor of Fort-George; in 1834, Master-General of the Ordnance, and continued till 1846, the year of his death. He was promoted General in 1841, and appointed Colonel of 3rd Royals in 1843. He died at his residence 5 Belgrave Square, London, on 28th July, 1846, and was buried beside his wife (died 1842) in Kensal Green cemetery. He married (1826), Lady Louisa Erskine, sister of the Marquis of Anglesea, and widow of Sir James Erskine; issue, one daughter, who mar-

**The Army
in Flanders.**

**Died in
London.**

M.P. for
Perthshire.

Perth, Scot.
Perth, W.A.

ried his aide-de-camp, Capt. Boyce, of 2nd Life Guards.

Parliamentary Career.

Sir George Murray's Parliamentary career now falls to be noticed. In the same year in which Sir George was appointed Colonel of the 42nd Royal Highlanders, he stood for Parliament in the Tory interest for Perth county, and was elected. Five years later (1828) he was made a Privy Councillor on taking office as Secretary of State for the Colonies in the administration of the Duke of Wellington who showed himself as able a statesman as he was a military leader. Sir George Murray held his Secretaryship till November, 1830. It was thus, that when important events were taking place in Western Australia in 1829, and a new name being given to Swan River, that Perth was fixed upon in honour of the Secretary of the Colonies and the seat he honoured in the British Parliament.

A Happy Choice.

A better choice could not have been made, and the Perth of Scotland and the Perth of Western Australia have been happily ever since linked in sentiment and wishing each other success. As previously mentioned, many Scottish-born Perth natives are to-day inhabitants of Perth, Western Australia. But these were the years of the Corn Law agitation at home. At the General Election of 1832, Sir George Murray was de-

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

feated at Perth, but regained the seat in 1834. On his appointment as Master-General of the Ordnance, Sir George Murray again lost his seat—the see-saw of politics!

Other Contests.

Sir George Murray contested Westminster in 1837, and Manchester in 1838 and 1841—each time unsuccessfully, while still continuing the important appointment of Master-General of the Ordnance.

**Vagaries of
Politics.**

Honours.

For his distinguished military services in field and administration he received the Gold Cross with five clasps; the K.C.B.; and Austrian, Russian, Portuguese, and Turkish honours. He published one or two political and military books, and edited "The Letters and Despatches of John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, 1702-12." The "D.N.B." estimate of Sir George Murray is a very high one:—"Murray was a successful soldier, an able Minister, and a skilful and fluent debater." It will be remembered that it was another Murray, the first Lord Mansfield of Scone, who was designated "the silver-tongued Murray."

Burns and Phemie Murray.

To the past generation there was no better known Perthshire county gentleman than Sir Patrick Keith Murray, Bart., of Ochtertyre. To the previous generation were also well-known the Murrays of Ochtertyre and the Murrays

**Burns and
Ochtertyre.**

**Euphemia
Murray.**

of Lintrose, near Coupar-Angus. One of the latter, Miss Euphemia Murray, was on a visit to the Murrays of Ochertyre, when Burns visited Crieff district in 1787. The poet was entertained at Ochertyre House, and wrote in honour of Miss Murray the song, "Blithe, blithe, and merry was she," and another on "Scaring the Wild Fowl on Loch Turret."

Au Revoir.

Our Australian cousins never do things by halves. After the Australian-Scots had left Perth an interesting ceremony took place in Perth Municipal Chambers. Lord Provost Dempster, representing the Corporation, was presented with a table made of Australian wood as a souvenir of the Australian-Scots visit to the city, by Mr. J. Burt Stewart, Victoria. Lord Provost Dempster, in reply, said they would keep the table as a link and memento of the Australians' visit to Perth. The table, with a silver plate in the form of a geographical outline of Australia, occupies an honoured position in Perth Municipal Council Hall.

Perth and Literary Celebrities.

A Survey of Centuries from
Shakespeare Onwards.

As Said and Seen.

A description of a dictionary is that it is a book treating of a number of subjects in a concise way. A survey of the celebrities who have at one time or another been in touch with Perth, or belonged to it, is in a way a "dictionary" of notices, necessarily short, yet informative, and interesting.

In treating of such a subject as "Perth and Literary Celebrities," we desire to make mention of a few names, literary great, as we understand the term, having a connection with our city. Tradition, history, song, story, wit and humour, and present day connection are all found in our "draw of the net," as the salmon fishers of the Tay have it. In literary matters, a King and commoner, James VI. and the Admirable Crichton, both often in Perth, stand forth in name in a peculiar way; the Admirable Crichton (credited with being a pupil at Perth Grammar School) was the prodigy of his age as to acquiring knowledge, but he gave forth little; James VI., if he acquired little, gave forth a lot of literary ware—of a kind.

Survey of
Celebrities.

Admirable
Crichton.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Shake-
speare's
"Macbeth."

Dunsinane
and Scone

William Shakespeare.

Chief among literary men while the world lasts will be reckoned William Shakespeare, the bard of Avon. He saw the light at Stratford in 1564, accomplished his life work in London as dramatist and actor, returned to his native place in Warwickshire, and died there in 1616. Shakespeare, among other notable productions, gave us the great play of "Macbeth." Some reckon it his greatest production. It is his great gift to Scotland. How far he drew on previous historians, how far he incorporated fiction with fact, is best left for each one to decide for himself. The question which concerns Perth people is: Did Shakespeare tread the streets of our city as actor, or in search of local information ere producing "Macbeth."

Was He?

Some folk contend Shakespeare was in Scotland once, if not twice; others say, give us the dates, and show us the play-bills? Neither dates nor play-bills can be produced. On the other hand, we have mention of Dunsinane, Birnam, and Forres: the march of "Birnam Wood" to camouflage the prediction of the witches: the murder of Macbeth at Dunsinane, near Royal Scone, gives a good ending to the play! Thomas Hay Marshall, the author of Marshall's "History of Perth," held to the assumption that Shakespeare not only visited Scotland, but walked the streets of Perth; Robert Scott Fittis, Perth's literary light

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of half-a-century ago, who was usually T. H. Marshall's opponent in doubtful points in local history, was inclined to agree with him. For want of other data we leave the matter at that. It is one of Perth's most interesting traditions.

Bishop Gawain Douglas.

In Gawain Douglas, Bishop of Dunkeld (died 1522), we have one of the foremost literary men and ecclesiastics of his time, yet driven from his appointment due to the factions which existed in his day. Gawain Douglas often resided in Perth, his abode being the Bishop's Palace (Perth was in the Diocese of Dunkeld) which stood almost opposite the Salutation Hotel (which bears date 1699) on part of the site of Messrs. A. Laing & Co.'s grocery establishment (Mr. A. Butters, proprietor) at the corner of St. John Street and South Street. A beautiful window tablet now marks the site. Gawain was of the doughty Douglas line, the third son of the "Bell the Cat" Douglas, and a younger brother was Archibald Douglas of Kilspindy, in the Carse of Gowrie.

Double Connection.

The bishop was thus not only linked with Perth ecclesiastically, but by blood relationship, and the Douglas of the time of Robert III. was also often in Perth. Literary notices of Gawain say he was the first translator of Virgil's *Æneid* into the vernacular, the author of "The Palace of Honour," "The King's

**A Famous
Bishop.**

**His Literary
Work.**

**Literature v.
Politics.**

Hart," and other poems. At this time, Dunkeld was a famous diocese, and the third richest living in Scotland. The bishops had four palaces—one at Dunkeld, a second at Clunie Loch in the Stormont, a third at Perth, and a fourth at Edinburgh, from the latter on one occasion a brass reading-stand was taken away. After Gawain had established himself as a literary man, he forsook literature for Church politics. He was appointed to the Bishopric of Dunkeld in 1515 on the death of Bishop Brown. Gawain aimed at something even higher, the Primacy of Scotland: Beaton, whose name is ever anathema in Perth, desired the post, and dreaded Douglas' rivalry.

Cardinal Wolsey.

At this time the later discarded Cardinal Wolsey was supreme. In a matter of diamond cut diamond between Douglas and Beaton, Gawain was found guilty by the other side of corrupt practices in obtaining his Bishopric of Dunkeld, and was sentenced to be banished the country! It was a day of strong measures. Instead, he was imprisoned for a time, then went to England, in another intriguing affair was unsuccessful, and passed away a broken man in the Plague of London in 1522. Thus died, the victim of personal ambition, one of Scotland's greatest literary sons of history. The best pen-portrait of Gawain Douglas is that by Sir Walter Scott in "Marmion":—

"A Bishop by the altar stood,
A noble lord of Douglas blood,

**Imprisoned
for a Time!**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

With mitre sheen and roquet white;
Yet showed his meek and thoughtful eye
But little pride of Prelacy;

More pleased than in a barbarous age
He gave rude Scotland Virgil's page,
Than that beneath his rule he held
The bishopric of fair Dunkeld."

Baroness Nairne, Sir Walter Scott,
and Robert Burns.

The greatest of these as regards popularity is Robert Burns (1759-1796). We mention him last as having least connection with the city and county of Perth. Yet he did well by us. In the hey-day of his success in 1787, he toured Perthshire and the Highlands generally. After "coming in" to Perthshire through Glendevon and Gleneagles, he passed on to Crieff, and Ochtertyre, which inspired him to compose "Phemie Murray," better known as "Blithe, blithe, and merry was she" (of Lintrose, Coupar-Angus).

We are indebted to Rev. T. D. Miller, Inveraven, Perth, for calling attention to the fact that Euphemia Murray of Lintrose became the second wife of Mr. Smyth (that was how the name was spelt then) of Methven, an advocate, who was raised to the Bench, and took the title, Lord Methven. The late Colonel D. M. Smythe, D.L., of Methven, was their grandson, and another is the Very Rev. P. M. Smythe, Provost of St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth.

Robert Burns in turn journeyed to Dunkeld where he met Neil Gow,

**A Notable
Three.**

**Lord
Methven.**

**"The Birks of
Aberfeldy."**

**Perthshire's
Benefactor.**

Scotland's famous fiddler of his day, who resided at Inver, and composed the beautiful "O stay, sweet warbling wood-lark stay" to one of Neil Gow's airs, and in turn moved on to Blair Castle, which in turn evoked "Bruar Water," and later still giving forth "The Birks of Aberfeldy," and the chaste lines at Kenmore Hotel beginning

"Admiring Nature in her wildest grace,
These Northern scenes with weary feet I trace,"

he passed on to Further North Scotland, and returned by the East Coast. Burns journeyed from Montrose district (where he met some of his father's forebears) to Perth. He came through the Carse of Gowrie, and for many years "Lassie wi' the yellow coatie" (Lady Nairne) was credited to Burns. The poet put up for a night at Perth in Croom's Inn in the High Street. He afterwards continued his tour to the then Belshes' family of Invermay, which he later celebrated in the "Birks of Invermay." Burns' greatest gift to Perthshire song was, however, his "The Birks of Aberfeldy."

Sir Walter Scott.

Sir Walter Scott made Perthshire, is the remark of more than one guide-book, and "passer-by." The phrase, "passer-by," somewhat describes Sir Walter Scott's connection with Perth. On his pony he arrived at the "Wicks of Baiglie," and as he saw the Tay, and Perth in the distance, he put in poetical form a local Roman tradition, "Behold the Tiber!" Of greater benefit to Perth-

shire was his "opening up" of the Trosachs by his matchless poem, "The Lady of the Lake." Its cantos are now classics. Notably so are "lone Glenartney's hazel shade," "the Chase," "The Fiery Torch," "the song of Vich Alpine," and others. Sir Walter gave Perthshire the Tullyveolan scene in "Waverley," the gruesome "Legend of Montrose," and the ever-welcome "Rob Roy" itself. "The Fair Maid of Perth" is not only one of Sir Walter's most charming Scottish-romance novels, but has helped to make Perth a tourist and visitor centre every summer.

Baroness Nairne.

Baroness Nairne (Caroline Oliphant of Gask) stands unrivalled as the poetic queen of Scottish song; in the Jacobite conception of the phrase. She first saw the light at the Auld Hoose of Gask, was absent for many years, then returned to peacefully "wear awa" in it. Perth of course was, as it still is, the county town for Gask; as a young girl she was often in town; she had a married sister (Mrs. Dr. Stewart) who lived in the Watergate, then the fashionable part of the city; she danced at the County Balls; wrote poetry (at first) to purify the ribald words in existence, and from that passed into her unrivalled outpouring of Jacobite minstrelsy; treated of love of home and patriotism in the "Auld Hoose," of life's passing in the "Land o' the Leal," the fish-vendor's song of "Caller Herrin'," and the humorous "Duncan Gray." She lived a varied and

**A Romance
of Perth.**

**Caroline
Oliphant.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Worthy Names.

useful life; had her joys and sorrows; and was much in touch with Perth while living in its vicinity, at Holyrood, or on the Continent. At the close of a long life, she asked herself in a poem, "Would you be young again?" and she answered "Not I!" So she passed away at Gask.

Poets.

Other poets connected with the city and county have been Robert Nicoll, Auchtergaven, for a time named Scotland's second Burns; Robert Ford, of Wolfhill and Glasgow; James Ferguson ("Nisbet Noble") of Stanley and Perth; Alex. McLeish, of Perth and Kinrossie; and later gifted rhymers and song-writers happily still with us.

The Poet Wordsworth and Sister Dorothy's

The Visits to Scotland.

literary connection with Highland Perthshire is not so well known as it should be. Of Wordsworth's four visits to Scotland the most notable was that of 1803. Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Dorothy set off (in an Irish jaunting car) from Grasmere, Keswick, on a tour to the "land of the mountain and the flood." The weather was such on many days that they might have been pardoned for imagining that the original flood was re-visiting Scotland. Dorothy was very observant of Scotland as it then was. Principal Shairp's erudite survey of the Wordsworth tour is a masterpiece in its way, and treats of the Solway, the Scottish Border, the Forty-Five, Macpher-

son's Ossian, Johnson's tour, and the poetic outpour of Burns.

The Tour.

The Wordsworths toured Ayrshire then on to Loch Lomond, and the Moor of Rannoch. They were delighted with the Trossachs, Loch Katrine, and the MacGregor country. The journey was continued to Loch Awe, Kilchurn, Dalmally, Glencoe, the Black Mount, Killin, Loch Tay, Kenmore, Taymouth Castle, Falls of Moness, and Aberfeldy. Continuing they visited Logierait, Blair Castle, Pass of Killiecrankie, and Amulree to Dunkeld. When the Wordsworths arrived at Dunkeld they were undetermined whether to go to Perth and Edinburgh, or make a circuit and re-visit the Trossachs. They decided upon the latter, returning to Crieff instead of visiting Perth. The visit to the MacGregor country called forth from Wordsworth the poem, now a song:—

"A famous man was Robin Hood,
The English ballad singer's joy,
But Scotland has a chief as good—
She has, she has, her bold Rob Roy."

The visit to Amulree and its associations with Ossian, called forth "Ossian's Grave":—

"In this still place, remote from men
Sleeps Ossian in the narrow glen—
. . . . Ossian, last of all his race,
Lies buried in this lonely place."

"Ossian" and James Macpherson.

The mention of the word Ossian leads to the literary disputation as to those

**Places
Visited.**

**The Sma'
Glen.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**James
Macpherson.**

**Battle of
Barossa.**

poems. Whether they were out-and-out fugitive pieces from old Celtic singers, the productions of Macpherson, or half and half, is another Shakespeare-Bacon affair. What is of moment to us is that Macpherson was a native of Kingussie district near to the county boundary line between Perthshire and Inverness-shire. He was tutor and travelling companion to Thomas Graham of Balgowan (afterwards Lord Lynedoch) and thus must have been often in Perth. Macpherson was born in 1738, and after a time was at King's College and Marischal College, Aberdeen. While touring, Graham and Macpherson met, at Moffat Spa, in 1759, Home, of "Douglas" fame, minister at Haddington. In turn Home was largely instrumental in getting the Ossian poems published. Subsequent events caused tutor and pupil to pursue different roads. Graham married; became a widower; was the patriotic Perthshire country gentleman who raised two regiments on the North Inch during the Napoleonic scare; had a great military career, and was during Lord Liverpool's regime nominated second in command previous to Waterloo. Graham's great military achievements consisted in his covering up Sir John Moore's retreat at Corunna and his victory in the Peninsular Battle of Barossa—Barossa Place and Barossa Street being so-named in honour of this military achievement. As for Macpherson, the Edinburgh edition of the Ossian poems was a great success. Macpherson "collected" other frag-

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ments and poems and published them; went for a time as Governor Johnston's secretary at West Florida; returned to London; entered Parliament; was London agent of the Nabob of Arcot; bought the estate of Balaire, near Kingussie, and ended life, where he began it, in 1796. Lord Lynedoch lived until he was over ninety years of age, and his body was brought from London to Perth by water, and buried in Methven Kirkyard.

**Over 90
Years.**

Sheridan Knowles, Dickens, Etc.

Almost a century ago there burst on the dramatic world, Sheridan Knowles as author and actor, whose plays lent themselves to rhetoric; Sheridan Knowles made one notable visit to Perth Theatre Royal in April, 1839. Perth had a similar visit from Gustavus Brookes, tragedian, in 1842; he afterwards perished while en route to Australia. Charles Dickens, author and reader, appeared in Perth in October, 1858 (to a large audience—one night), when he gave his own "Christmas Carols." "Leo Ross" (Dr. Moxey) charmed Perth audiences for years, as did Dickson Moffat. For the time being, visits from professional elocutionists have been like angels' visits—few and far between!

**His Literary
Work.**

John Ruskin.

Ruskin's connection with Perth is an interesting cameo in the literary history of the city. Due to London being the place of his birth, Ruskin is reckoned an Englishman. Scotland should call in her

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Buried at Coniston.

own: His grandfather was a merchant in Edinburgh; his father was a native of Edinburgh, and for a time a wine merchant there; then went to London, and became head of the firm of Messrs. Ruskin, Telford, and Domecq, wine merchants, No. 7 Billiter Street. No. 54 Hunter Street, off Brunswick Square, Bloomsbury, was Ruskin's birthplace; he died at Brantwood, 20th January, 1900, and was buried at Coniston. The goodly fortune (some £200,000) which Ruskin inherited from his father, he spent largely in travel, in publishing, and in doing kindly acts to less fortunate individuals. Ruskin's aunt, a sister of his father, resided in Perth, being married to Mr. Richardson, who owned one of the large tanneries which the city then possessed. Many of Ruskin's youthful days were spent with his aunt in Perth. He first came to Perth as a boy of seven years with his parents, and afterwards travelled in successive years with them in Scotland. Ruskin was married (1848) in Perth, to Miss Gray, Bowerswell, but, after a time, the parties separated, and she became Lady Millais, wife of Sir J. E. Millais, the artist.

Kinross and Glenfarg.

Early Reading.

Ruskin read in youth Sir Walter Scott's "Abbot" at Kinross, and the "Monastery" in Glenfarg. The streamlet in that glen on the north side of the Ochils was haunted for him by the White Lady, and the island of Loch Leven, so familiar to many, by Mary, Queen of Scots. As to

Scottish scenery, Ruskin in "Præterita," says "there is something not only 'mindable' but positively haunting in it." Ruskin was reckoned the successor of Addison and Swift as a literary stylist. It is in "Præterita" and "Fors Clavigera" that we get glimpses of Ruskin in Perth. We have the Tay below Scone described; the precipice of Kinnoull Hill; Bridgend House, even as we know it to-day; the house No. 10 Rose Terrace facing the North Inch; Kinnoull Burying-ground, etc. Of the present Kinnoull Parish Church as to architecture, it has come down to us that the great man described it as good of its kind.

Richardson.

Ruskin's uncle-in-law, Richardson, was Peter, the tanner, of Bridgend, and his family lived first at Bridgend House, and then at No. 10 Rose Terrace. Both houses have Ruskin tablets affixed to them. Perth has thus many associations with Ruskin. Following on Miss Warren preparing some 44 sketches in colour, and black and white, Mr. E. T. Cook, who has so largely written on Ruskin, a few years ago prepared another volume, entitled "Homes and Haunts of Ruskin," which was published in 1912. This delightful volume is in the Sandeman Public Library, Perth. Those who care will find well spent time in reading Ruskin's "Modern Painters," "The Seven Lamps," "The Stones of Venice," "Sesame and Lilies," and his last works, "Fors Clavigera" (1884), written between

**Ruskin and
Perth.**

**Sandeman
Library.**

periods of brain fag, exhaustion, and mental decay, followed by "Præterita" (1889), autobiographical and anecdotal. Last illness, two days of influenza, and a passing away. Dates—Born, 1819; died, 1900.

Three Perth County Notables.

Worthy Names.

At this point it is in order to make mention of three Perth county literary persons of note:—

(1) **Sir James Ramsay, Bart.**, of Bamff, who, ere his demise a year or two ago at a great age, gave forth from the quiet of his study on the Quiech, near Alyth, many books of first rank of importance on the subjects treated. His specially notable contributions to literature included—"Lancaster and York," "Foundations of England," "The Angevin Empire," "The Dawn of the Constitution," "Bamff Charters," etc., and an interesting and valuable guide-book to Alyth and district.

The Ramsay Family.

(2) **The Duchess of Atholl**, who inherits the Ramsay family intellect, and a desire to serve. Her best literary work is "A Military History of Perthshire." Her military and patriotic work in the South African War and again in the Great War against Germany, and specially at Gallipoli and Egypt, are all to her honour. At present she is M.P. for West Perthshire and Kinross, and is Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education.

(3) Mr. W. G. Burn-Murdoch, Edinburgh, but associated with the Gartincaber district of West Perthshire. He has been, or is, explorer, traveller, artist, musician, and literary man all in one. He has been to the Arctic regions, to "Greenland's icy mountains, and to India's coral strand," to Spitzbergen for coal, to Spain for pibroch-playing and to Italy to study ancient languages. He is an Art student; a designer of dadoes and friezes, and of magazine illustrations, alike allegorical and historical; is an interesting lecturer, a player of the bagpipes, and a modern Bohemian of the most enjoyable type. Lately he produced some beautiful representations of Scotland's great mystery, "The Gowrie Conspiracy," at Perth. There is versatility in Mr. W. G. Burn-Murdoch—a bagpipe enthusiast of Edinburgh, Europe and the East; singing sailors' chanties in Arctic regions; howking coal in Spitzbergen, and mural artist all in one.

**Spitzbergen
and Spain.**

Edgar Allan Poe (1809-49).

At first mention one would not imagine that Edgar Allan Poe, America's gifted poetical genius, could have any connection with Perth. The connection is a round-about marital one. Poe's forebears were of English-Nottingham descent, were for a time in Ireland, then passed to America, being connected with the Stage. Edgar Poe was one of several children left orphans, and was adopted by Mr. John Allan, a Scottish-Ayrshire tobacco merchant of Richmond,

**Mixed
Conditions.**

in Virginia, and his wife, who had no children. Hence the Allan in his name.

Name and Upbringing.

Poe got part of his early education in America, then at Stoke Newington near London (this was in 1815), then at a College in America. Poe badly requited the Allans for his adoption, upbringing, education, and place in the world. More than once he was pardoned for his extraordinary Bohemian excesses, but in the end was thrown off and died a miserable death. His great poetical genius is shown in his ever-remembered "The Raven—Nevermore," "Tamerlane," "M.S. Found in a Bottle," "The Bells," "The House of Usher," "Tales of Mystery and Imagination," etc. Mr. John Allan had a sister in Perth, who was Mrs. Miller, wife of Mr. Miller, Inland Revenue Office. The Allans visited Perth on occasion and Edgar is said to have accompanied his foster-parents to the Fair City. Miss Livingstone, Perth, is a grand-daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Miller.

Thomas Hood (1799-1845).

Tom Hood, "the English humorist," was a grandson of Errol, Carse of Gowrie, Perthshire. Grandparents Hood kept a place for travellers in Errol, and the paternal member passing away first, Grannie Hood carried on the business. An uncle and an aunt carried on other businesses in Errol, and some of the family went to Coupar-Angus, and others

**Badly
Required.**

**Errol,
Perthshire.**

to Arbroath. Tom Hood's father went from Errol into Dundee, and learned to be a bookseller; from there he went to London and became a publisher.

As a Lithographer.

Hood started life as a lithographer in London, got into bad health, lived in Dundee and Errol for about two years, and then returned to London. One of his journeys was from Errol, through Perth, to an aunt at Stobhall Castle, near Stanley. On his return to London, Hood applied himself to the hard task of literature, producing "The Dream of Eugene Aram," "The Bridge of Sighs," "Ode to Melancholy," "The Romance of Cologne," "The Legend of Navarre," "Hero and Leander," etc., etc., including the poem which will keep him remembered for all time, "The Song of the Shirt," depicting sweated labour. Hood is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

**Perth and
Stanley.**

Dr. Charles Mackay (1812-89).

Dr. Charles Mackay, poet and litterateur, was born in Perth in 1812. His father belonged to one of the septs of the Mackays of the Reay country, was in the British army for a time, and stationed at Perth while it was an Artillery depot. The father married a Perth lady, and Charles was the fruit of the marriage, was baptised in St. Paul's Parish Church, where a beautiful handsome baptismal font was in later years erected to his genius and his worth as a patriot and a

**Clan
Mackay.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Poet and Journalist.

clansman by the Clan Mackay Society of Scotland. His mother dying while he was yet a child, he was educated in London, got a post as a secretary in Belgium, felt a desire to return to Great Britain and did so.

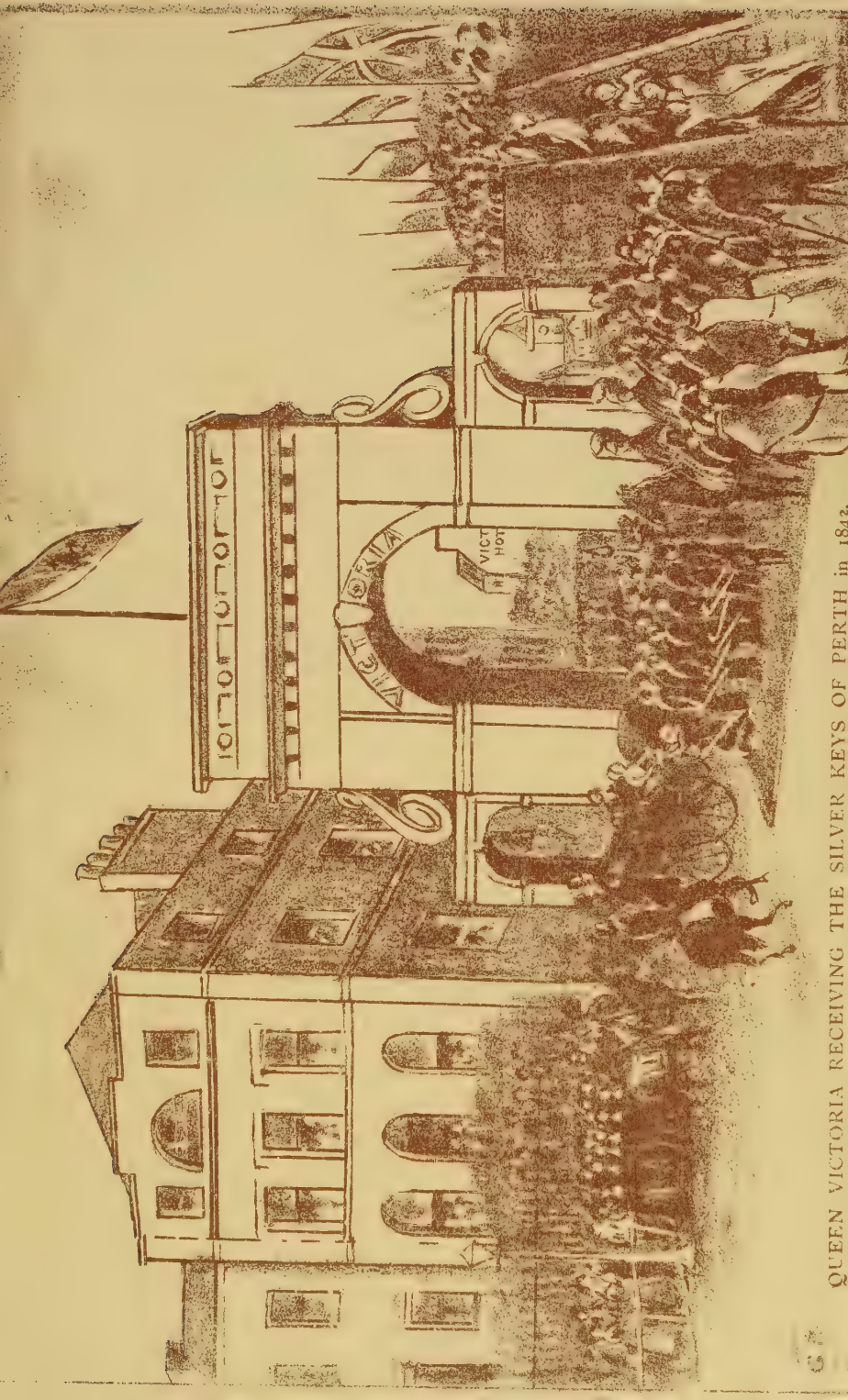
His Career.

Charles Mackay started on a literary career in London, published a volume of poems, which was fairly successful, became a journalist, and later an editor in Glasgow, and was "The Times" correspondent in America during the Civil War. Returning to London he wrote emigration and patriotic songs such as "Cheer, boys, cheer," "To the West, to the West, to the land of the free," etc., which sold by thousands, presided at Burns celebrations, and collaborated with the leading musicians of the day in supplying historical information as to Scottish and English songs and their authors. He also wrote "There grows a bonnie brier bush," and other Scottish songs, and poems for reciting at concerts, etc.

Corelli Declaration.

Miss Marie Corelli.

It falls naturally that a few lines on Miss Marie Corelli should follow the reference to Dr. Charles Mackay—in the hey-day of her success as a writer of fiction, Miss Marie Corelli to the writer quaintly put it on record as to Dr. Charles Mackay, "whose adopted daughter I am." In her childhood, the eminent novelist was known as Miss



QUEEN VICTORIA RECEIVING THE SILVER KEYS OF PERTH in 1842.

Minnie Mackay due to Mackay befriending in an especially praiseworthy manner, mother and daughter. Miss Corelli mapped out for herself the life of a professional vocalist. She began literature by assisting Mackay in his declining years, and noting the bent of his son, George Eric Mackay in "Love Letters of a Violinist."

A Star.

Miss Marie Corelli suddenly burst on the British reading world as a star of the first magnitude alike as to her brilliance of conception and working up of subject, and her daring titles, such as "The Sorrows of Satan," etc. She sent a lecture to the Gaelic Society of Perth entitled "The Celtic Spirit," and on one occasion visited St. Paul's Parish Church to see the memorial to Dr. Mackay—at whose centenary she sent a beautiful wreath and the name of his favourite hymn. For many years resident at Stratford-on-Avon, she for a time occupied Killiecrankie Cottage, Perthshire, as a summer residence.

Ian Maclaren.

"The Bonnie Brier Bush" of song was in later years to receive a decided uplift in literature by Rev. Dr. John Watson, of Sefton Park Presbyterian Church, Liverpool. The best of the Scottish kailyard stories by Ian Maclaren, "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush," has been as popular when dramatised for the Stage as what it was in book fiction form.

**Marie
Corelli.**

**His Literary
Work.**

**Resided in
Perth:**

Sir Walter Scott led Scottish romance on the boards, Ian Maclaren continued it, and Sir J. M. Barrie is still with us, an especially enjoyable little play being—"The Old Lady Shows Her Medals." Dr. John Watson's maternal forebears belonged to the Marlee-Kinloch and Lethendy Stormont district of Perthshire; his father was for a time connected with the Inland Revenue department at Perth, resided in Marshall Place, and John attended Perth Academy.

Lethendy.

As a preacher, John Watson returned to Perth district to take supply at Lethendy Free Church, and later be F.C. minister of Logiealmond, to the north-west of Perth, where he had a successful ministry ere going to Glasgow and Liverpool. In Logiealmond district, under the title name of "Drumtochty," he laid the scene of his ever-welcome book and play. While at Logiealmond, he was a member of Perth U.F. Presbytery. Scotsmen the world over are proud of the genius of Ian Maclaren, and Perth especially. His school-boy book, "The Young Barbarians," depicts life at Perth Academy while he attended the school.

**Patriotic
Author.**

R. Hope Moncrieff.

Mr. R. Hope Moncrieff was a scion of a very old legal firm in Perth, followed in the footsteps of his father for a time in the way he looked on semi-residential life in the Glenfarg district, as to active participation as an officer in

the Victorian Volunteer movement, and in law. In the absence of his father was in command of a Volunteer company when Queen Victoria visited the city of Perth in the 60's to unveil a statue to Prince Albert—and nearly missed saluting Her Majesty on account of so many people being in carriages and brass hats being about! After a time, Mr. Hope Moncrieff took to English public school life, and became a master.

Literature.

Moncrieff later took to the line of Jules Verne, R. M. Ballantyne, Henty, etc., and wrote history and public school books for boys. He was a great success in this line, writing under the pen-name of Ascott R. Hope, and settled in London. He heard home calling, and produced two handsome illustrated books, "Bonnie Scotland" and "Perthshire." Up to his recent death he kept in touch with a number of relatives and friends in Perth and district. A small portrait of him is in the Sandeman Public Library, Perth.

A Memorial Volume.

A memorial volume just issued (July, 1928) with a personal note by Sir Philip Gibbs, and an introduction by Miss Mary E. Ritchie, contains examples of the work which occupied Mr. R. Hope Moncrieff during the last years of his life. The examples were in course of preparation for the Press at the time of his death. Two of the articles deal with the

**Perth in the
60's.**

**Sandeman
Library.**

**Man and
Output.**

adventures of white men dwelling, some as captives, some as chiefs, among the Indians of North America; the third describes a search, aided by supernatural means, for the fabled Treasure of the Incas; and the fourth, the misadventures of the soi-disant King of Araucania and Patagonia—a well-merited honour to the man and the literary output of the author of "Cap and Gown Comedy," which helped to form the character for good of boys at public schools in England and Scotland.

Sir Donald MacAlister, K.C.B.

**High
Honours.**

On such an occasion as the present, it is good to call in and notice some eminent natives of Perth. The first: Sir Donald MacAlister, K.C.B., Principal of Glasgow University, and one of the most learned men of to-day. Born in Perth, 17th May, 1854, he is the eldest son of the late Mr. Donald MacAlister, Tarbert, Cantire, representative of the hereditary holders of Tarbert Castle, and who was in residence at 2 Earl's Dykes and 96 Canal Street in Perth as head of Blackie's popular publications, then in Aberdeen, and later in Liverpool. Sir Donald received his early education in Aberdeen, passing in turn to Liverpool, St. John's College, Cambridge, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; and the University, Leipzig. He was gold medallist of the Royal Geographical Society, and thrice Queen's gold medallist of the Science and Art Department, with scholarships at Balliol, Worcester, Oxford, Cam-

bridge, etc., and honours galore from 1876 down to that of the British Pharmacopœia in 1914. He passed M.D., M.A., Cambridge, and B.Sc., London, and his honours from Universities include from as far apart as Aberdeen to Athens. He is one of the most outstanding learned men of his day, and has been a great success as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Glasgow University, to which he was appointed in 1907. He has lectured much, and published much. Perth has reason to be proud of being the birthplace of such a distinguished man.

Lady MacAlister.

As the embryo Principal of Glasgow University was only five years of age when he went to Aberdeen with his parents, it cannot be said that the foundations of his distinguished academic career were laid in Perth. He, however, gave evidence some years ago of his interest in his native city by presiding at one of the annual functions of Perth Academy, where so many who have made their mark in the mathematical world received their early education. But besides Sir Donald MacAlister's own association with the ancient capital of Scotland, his talented wife, Lady MacAlister, has ties binding her to Perth, her mother having been one of Perth's fair maids. Lady MacAlister is a worthy helpmeet of one who has secured such a crowd of scientific and literary honours. Her literary ability

**Glasgow
University.**

**Ties with
Perth.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Double Kinship.

secured for her the prize of £100 offered for the production of a work of fiction.

It is not a little remarkable that Principal MacAlister, who spent part of his youth in the Fair City, and Lady MacAlister, who spent a portion of hers in Dublin's Fair City, should not only have kinship with her, she was nee Miss Edith MacAlister, eldest daughter of Professor Alexander MacAlister, St. John's College, Cambridge, but be able also to claim this double relationship with the Fair City of Perth.

Sir John Young W. MacAlister, F.S.A.

Recreation, Sleeping!

Sir John Young W. MacAlister, brother of Sir Donald MacAlister, and also born in Perth, was educated at Liverpool High School and Edinburgh University, and named after the minister of Kinnoull Street Chapel, Perth, where the father was a respected elder. Sir John studied medicine for a time, but gave it up on account of ill-health, and took to library work in Liverpool, and later in Leeds; engaged for a time in journalism in Yorkshire; then back to library work in Glasgow; founded "The Library" publication in 1889, and has been engaged as editor and chairman of many publications and societies since. He has edited the Library Association Year-Book, etc., and contributed to "Times," "Athenæum," etc., and his recreation is given in "Who's Who" as sleeping!

William Archer.

Was a son of Mr. Thomas Archer, C.M.G. (and the name is fairly numerous in Perth), who was for a time of Gracemere, Queensland, formerly Agent-General for Queensland in London, born in Perth on 23rd September, 1856, and educated at Edinburgh University. Archer took to journalism in Edinburgh, then to travel in Australia, and later settled down in London as one of the leading dramatic critics of the metropolis. He, in addition, edited Ibsen's Prose Dramas, wrote an able life of Macready, been engaged on Study and Stage Year-book, travelled America and written on America, as well as on the subject of a British National Theatre with H. Granville Barker. On new plays, Archer's criticisms were ever informative and read with interest. Archer died in 1924.

**Perth and
London.**

Sir John Scott Keltie (1840-1927).

It seems as if it were but yesterday since Sir John Scott Keltie received his Knighthood and was being honoured by many geographical and literary societies of Great Britain and on the Continent for his general erudition. But the allotted span of over eighty years—the four-score of the Psalmist—came, and Sir John passed away in London, where he had been resident for many years. His was an interesting career—a son of the foreman mason of Messrs. Readdie, builders, of Perth, who had come to the Fair City from Glendevon

**Sir John's
Career.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Scottish Application.

on the south side of the Ochils via Dundee, where John was born. To the east of Glendevon, Sir Walter Scott mentions Old Keltie, innkeeper at Kinross, in "The Abbot" (time of Elizabeth).

A Product of Perth.

As boy, youth, and young man he was a Perth product. Schooldays past, he continued as a pupil teacher, then went to St. Andrews and Edinburgh Universities to come out as a U.P. Church minister. In Edinburgh, it occurred to him he had not "the call" for the ministry; turned to literature, and wrote for a number of years for Chambers's Encyclopedia along with three or four others; went to London, and did over another decade with the Macmillan Publishing Company; became first librarian, then secretary, to the Royal Geographical Society; wrote text-books in regard to the geography of many out of the way countries of the world; was editor for years of several publications, and notably "The Statesman's Year Book." The publication which links him best to Scotland and to Perth is "Keltie's Scottish Highlands and Clans." Sir John Scott Keltie died ripe in honours and in years, and was one more example of Scottish perseverance and application.

Through Perth.

Sir Hall Caine.

There are ships that pass in the night, and there are literary celebrities who pass through Perth. Byron passed and repassed through Perth from Aberdeen to London, but no one noted him. It



McCLAREN
1928

TURAT BRIG AND PORT OF PERTH.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

was different with Sir Hall Caine, when a literary railway man on seeing a certain figure at Perth General Station, "was sure that was Hall Caine." Sure, enough; and the newspapers announced "Hall Caine in Perth." Such is the penalty of greatness, and the author of "The Deemster," and other tales well deserves his popularity as a personality and a literary producer. In August, 1918, Sir Hall Caine was on a journey to the Western Hebrides (the Lewes, Lord Leverhulme's then new possession), and was a day in Perth going and another coming. Interrogated on his visit, the great Manx author said Perth needed no testimonial from him as to its beautiful river and well-wooded situation—it was pardonable in a literary man to remember in connection with the city the poets and story-tellers, Scott and Burns, and that some remains of a very interesting and human past were still to be seen in the principal streets. Sir Hall Caine has done excellent literary work since even 1918, and his son (who is in connection with the films) promises to make a like notable career.

John A. Steuart.

Mr. John A. Steuart, novelist, has been "so long away from home," that there is a danger of him not being counted to Perthshire. Yet he is a Breadalbane, Aberfeldy, man by birth and upbringing. He can talk as penetratively of "Highland Character" as he can depict his fiction characters groping in the maze

**Western
Hebrides.**

Perthshire.

**Minister of
State.**

of difficulty and doubt chapter after chapter. In the end, he allows them to see the light, and confers happiness on them in the most approved fashion. Since he left "hame," Mr. Steuart has seen life in Ireland and America, and in turn settled down to literary life in London to become a success. His "Minister of State" is specially popular with Scottish readers as it contains a sprinkling of Gaelic words and phrases. "The Red Reaper," "Wine on the Lees," "A Son of Gad," "The Wages of Pleasure," "Faces in the Mist," and "Quicksands" are others of his better known works. John A. Steuart's later works show him to be still at his best. Somebody or **other is ever giving forth a "sough"**—and one "friend" of J. A. S. declares that "wait till he dies and he will rival Robert Louis Stevenson." One thing is certain, begin to read John A. Steuart and you will not stop till you have gone through his product—he never disappoints.

John Buchan.

Designation.

One of the most notable literary men of the present day, and he has just added politics to literature, is John Buchan. In his life-time, and he is not very old yet, he has had so many military prefixes and honorary affixes that one is at a disadvantage as to how to designate him—Mr. and M.P. will both pass away, and Time will designate him John Buchan. The Nelson historian of the Great War did well in that book; he had done well

in others previous to it. Everybody in Perth should know that John Buchan is a native of the Fair City; born 1875; a son of Rev. John Buchan, of Knox Free Church, South Street, and afterwards of Kirkcaldy and Glasgow, but of Peebles-Broughton ancestry. John Buchan had a distinguished University career at Glasgow and Oxford, and became a barrister. But Law did not keep him. He went to South Africa (1901-3) as Private Secretary to High Commissioner Lord Milner.

South
Africa.

Literature Rather Than Law.

Started a literary career when he was twenty years of age with *Sir Quixote* (1895); made his name in 1898 with "John Burnet of Barns," strengthened it by "Greyweather" and "A Lost Lady of Old Years," and later still by "The 39 Steps," "Midwinter," "Prester John," "The Path of the King," "John Macnab," "Huntingtower," "Miscellaneous Papers," "The Runagates Club" (his latest), etc. He entered the field of history in 1898 by producing "Brasenose College," and in turn he greatly increased his reputation (in 1913) by producing "The Marquis of Montrose," practically a justification of Montrose against his great and somewhat crafty opponent, Argyll. It is related of John Buchan that his first entry into Kirkcaldy was marked by his falling out of a cab and doing some damage to his forehead; then illness on one or two occasions threatened to stop the course of a not too strong physical frame. He

Kirkcaldy.

Miss
Buchan.

now lives at Elsfeld Manor, Oxford, travelling to and from London almost daily; had a notable return as M.P. for St Andrews and Edinburgh Universities, and has already spoken in the House of Commons on several occasions with good effect. He promises to be the literary personage of his day. Mrs. John Buchan has also done good literary work.

"O. Douglas."

On such a subject one has a difficulty in knowing where to stop—literature and literary writers are so interesting to mankind. Mr. John Buchan's sister, Miss Buchan, has done well as a lecturer on the platform and as a literary writer in "Penny Plain," "The Seatons," "Ann and Her Mother," "Olivia," "Pink Sugar," "The Proper Place," and her latest volume, "Eliza for Common." Miss Buchan was born in Kirkcaldy, and writes under the pen-name of "O. Douglas."

Perth.

Miss
Lorimer.

Coming to Perth itself, Miss Norma Lorimer has done well, especially in her "Waters" series, which include those of Sicily, Carthage, Egypt, Germany, Africa, etc., and "The Yoke of Affection," "The End of the Matter" etc. Miss Lorimer has had an interesting life. Born in Auchterarder, Perthshire, she was largely educated at Castletown High School, Isle of Man, where she lived for fifteen years. She now resides at 7 Pitcullen Terrace, Perth. Miss Lorimer has written between 20 and 30 books.

Well-Known Names.

A compliment falls to be made to Miss Annie Smeaton for giving forth "Gordon Ogilvie," "In the Superlative," "Wings of Fire," etc. The literary output of Miss Rorison has been well received, as has that of Mrs. Hay and Mrs. Bessie McLagan, and Miss E. S. Boswell's and Mr. Fred J. Forbes's short stories and dramatic sketches. Turning to the male side the Brothers Macdonald, F.R.G.S., have earned fame in their travel and geographical romances even to the filming of them.

Others connected with the city have been welcome literary producers: Samuel Cowan, Dr. Buchanan White, Rev. Dean Farquhar, Mr. Colin Hunt, Mr. John Thomas, Lord Provost Wilson, Mr. J. H. Henderson ("Sandy Macnab"), Mr. William Sievwright, and

Still With Us,

Rev. T. D. Miller, Rev. Dr. John Stirton, Crathie; Rev. Dr. Arch. Fleming, London; Rev. Dr. Harry Smith, Tibbermore and Edinburgh; Rev. David Graham, Redgorton; ex-Bailie Macpherson, Mrs. Ross Readdie, Mr. Jas. Stirton, Dr. G. F. Barbour of Bonskeid; Mr. C. E. S. Chambers, "Chambers's' Journal," Edinburgh; Sir Charles McAra, Manchester; Miss A. M. MacGregor-Arbuckle, Edinburgh; Very Rev. Provost P. M. Smythe, Perth; Mr. P. MacDougall Pullar, Glasgow; Mr. Hugh Mitchell, Pitlochry; Mr. Campbell, Boreland, Loch Tay; Rev. Dr. Geo. W. Mackay, Killin;

**Brothers
Macdonald.**

**Ties with
Perth.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Notables.

Mr. Alex. Stewart, Glenlyon; Mr. Crerar, Kenmore; Rev. A. W. Gillies, Kenmore; Rev. Dr. Meldrum, Forteviot; Rev. W. F. Bell, Forgandenny; Rev. J. W. Jack, Glenfarg; Rev. James Meikle, Alyth; Rev. D. M. Forrester, Logiealmond; Rev. A. M. Snadden, Redgorton; Mr. John Panton, Meikleour; Mr. J. S. Ramsay, Blairgowrie; Rev. J. McGlashan Scott, Perth; Mr. Donald Scott, Perth; Rector E. Smart, Mr. Wm. Finlayson, Rev. J. Shillinglaw, Major H. S. Pullar, Mr. R. M. Pullar, Mr. A. W. Fisher, Mr. Thos. Harley, Mr. W. Malloch, Mr. D. S. Lowson, Mr. Robert Bain, Mr. A. K. Beaton, Mr. D. Sutherland, Mr. Jas. Craigie, Councillor Neil Gow, Mrs. Blair Oliphant Maxtone Graham of Ardblair, Blairgowrie and Edinburgh; Mr. T. Atholl Robertson, ex-M.P., London; Mr. A. Mackenzie Hay, "The Statist," London; Dr. Wm. Robertson, D.Ph., Perth and Edinburgh; Mr. Thomas McLaren, Burgh Surveyor; ex-Dean of Guild Barlas, Rev. P. R. Landreth, Mr. Henry Coates, Mr. W. P. Nairne, Mr. Alexander Scott, Mr. Andrew Rutherford, Mr. John Ferguson, Mr. R. Duff, Mrs. Forbes (Bankfoot), Mr. Paton (Luncarty), Mr. Donald Paton (Scone), Mr. Hugh C. Macdonald ("Alan Glendale"), Mr. James Duff (Dunkeld), Mr. James Garvie, etc., etc., with apologies to others inadvertently omitted.

Others.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Kindly Remembered.

At such a time, one thinks kindly of some who have gone before, such as Mr. Wm. Barclay, Mr. D. Crawford Smith, Rev. Jas. Scott, St. John's Church; Rev. J. P. Lawson (Edinburgh), Rev. Dr. Milne, Mr. P. R. Drummond, Mr. Thomas Hunter, Mr. David Sinclair, Sir Alex. Muir Mackenzie of Delvine; Mr. David McRitchie, Edinburgh; Mr. Robert Ford, Mr. Charles McIntosh, Mr. Thomas Keir, Mr. William Clyde, Mr. T. Robertson, Bishop Chas. Wordsworth, Mr. G. Mercer of Gorthy; Sheriff Barclay, Sheriff Boswell, Rev. John Ferguson, Aberdalgie; Mr. James Ferguson ("Nesbit Noble"), Stanley; Rev. Wm. Stevenson, St. John's Church; Dr. A. R. Urquhart, The Murray Royal; Mr. John Ritchie, LL.B.; Rev. Dr. W. W. Tulloch; Rev. Dr. John Anderson (Kinnoull), Rev. Dr. A. Benvie (Scone and Edinburgh), Rev. D. G. Manuel, Mr. D. B. Nicolson, Mr. John A. Stewart, Mr. Alister Stewart, Rev. Dr. Marshall (Coupar-Angus), ex-Bailie Bridges, Mr. Henry Dryerre (Blairgowrie), Mr. Urquhart (Scone).

And Especially To

Mr. Robt. Scott Fittis, Mr. Thos. Hay Marshall, Mr. David Millar, Mr. David Peacock, Mr. George Penny, and to the early Morison publications, such as the Perth Encyclopædia, History of Perth, Guide to Perth (1812), etc.; Mr. James Cant's "Notes"; and Henry Adamson's "Muses Threnodie," etc.

City and
County.

Gone!

"Lassie wi' the Yellow Coatie."

[Over a hundred years ago, one of the best known Perth-Methven-Dunkeld rhymers was James Duff, who was associated with the Royal Perthshire Volunteers (1807) (Highland, Stormont, and Perth corps) at the time when Napoleon threatened first to defeat Europe and then invade Great Britain. Many of Duff's poems are of a patriotic strain, breathing defiance to Bonaparte, and rejoicing in the Peace which followed. These included pieces on "Peace with France" (Oct. 1801), Death of Nelson (1805), Death of Pitt (1806), Death of General Abercrombie in Egypt (1801), Battle of Barossa (1811), Bonaparte's Return from Elba (1815), Peace with America (1st Jan., 1815), etc. Duff brought out a volume of poems in 1816 (published by D. Morison, Perth), which took well. One of his songs was for many years popular all over Scotland.]

Lassie wi' the yellow coatie,
Will ye tak' a muirlan' Jockie;
Lassie wi' the yellow coatie,
Think now will ye go wi' me?

I hae meal an' milk a plenty,
I hae kail, and cakes sae dainty,
I've a butt an' ben fu' genty,
But I want a wife like thee!

Altho' my mailin' be but sma',
An' little gowd I hae to shew,
I hae a heart without a flaw.
An' I will keep it a' for thee!

I hae been in toon and country,
'Mang the common folk an' gentry,
But the bonnie loss o' Fintry,
That's the maid that matches me!

Wi' my lassie, an' my doggie,
Ower the lea an' through the boggie
Nane on earth wad be sae vogie,
Or sae blythe as we wad be.

Haste ye lassie to his bosom,
While your roses are in bloom,
Time is precious, dinna lose him!
Flow'rs will fade, an' sae will ye!
Oh! tak' pity on your Jockie!
He's in haste, an' sae should ye!



SIR JOHN BISSET CAIRN AT REICHIP—Loch Ordie in the distance.

The Wolf of Badenoch

His Place in History and
in Perth

"A ruling tyrant,
Self all in all."

"The Wolf of Badenoch" was a Stewart. His name is one of the easiest to intrigue with in Scottish history. We like to remember people for their good deeds; the Wolf of Badenoch is remembered for his evil ones. These were so atrocious as to become, along with the man himself, the accepted cognomen for temperamental arrogance, avarice, bloodshed, and wanton destruction.

The classics give us Nero fiddling while Rome was burning; and British history, Edward I. of England striking down his brother, John of Eltham, in St. John's Church of Perth for his plundering and burning of Scottish Churches in the west part of the country. One likes to assent to the declaration that those who use the sword will perish by the sword. Sometimes that does not happen, and the case of the Wolf of Badenoch is one in point.

Interesting to Perth People.

It is interesting to people in Perth, as well as to those out of it, to know how the Stewart family came to, and rose to, the distinction which they did in

Badenoch.

Perth.

Breton to
Britain.

Seven
Generations.]

Scotland. It is indeed a romance. Pope has it:—

“Honour and shame from no condition rise;
Act well your part, there all the honour lies;
Fortune in men has some small difference made;
One flaunts in rags, one flutters in brocade!”

Origin of Stewart Family.

Best authorities are agreed that the origin of the Stewart family, as we know it, is as follows:—

Stewart, Steuart, or Stuart, is the surname of a family which inherited the Scottish, and ultimately the English, crown. Their descent is traced to a Breton immigrant, Alan, the son of Flaald, which Flaald was a brother of Alan, steward, or seneschal, of the small old town of Dol, in Brittany. The name occurs in Breton documents before 1080. One member went on Crusade in 1097, and Alan the younger enjoying the favour of Henry I., had conferred on him Mileham and its barony in Norfolk, and founded Sporle Priory. Walter, third son of the Flaald family, was made by David I. steward, or seneschal, of Scotland, and got lands in gift in Renfrewshire, including Paisley, where he founded the Abbey in 1163.

The Stewardship of Scotland.

For seven generations the Stewardship of Scotland descended without a break from father to son. Walter, sixth Steward, married in 1315 Marjory, Robert the Bruce's daughter, and eventually brought the crown of Scotland to the Stewart family—"it came with a

lass," in the words of James V., and it practically passed away the same way. Marjory Bruce's son, Robert (seventh Steward) (1316-90), on the death of David II. in 1371, ascended the Scottish throne as Robert II.

The Descent.

From Walter Stewart (died 1246) are descended the Stewart Earls of Angus, the Stewart Earls and Dukes of Lennox, the Stewart Earls of Galloway, the Stewarts of Lorn, Grandtully, and others. The Stewarts of Lorn and Innermeath were ancestors of the Earls of Atholl, and the later Earls of Buchan an offshoot of same branch, with relationship ties in the direct line.

Robert II.

From a natural son of Robert II. descended the Steuarts of Dalguise, Perthshire, and the Stuarts (1622), Marquises of Bute. Alexander Stewart, "the Wolf of Badenoch," was the third son of Robert II. From sons of the famous Wolf of Badenoch are descended the Stewarts of Atholl, who with the Stewarts of Appin, descended from a natural son of the last Lord Lorn, are regarded as constituting the Highland clan of the Stewarts.

Twice Married.

Robert II. (ascended throne in 1371) was twice married—first in 1349 to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Adam Muir of Rowallan, and secondly, in 1355, to Euphemia, Countess of Ross, daughter

**Atholl and
Buchan.**

1371.

Robert III.

of Hugh, Earl of Ross. As indicated, Alexander Stewart, third son of Robert II., was created Earl of Buchan (1374) on the forfeiture of the Comyns, and later became the Earl of Ross, and from sons descended the Stewarts of Atholl, Garth, Urrard, and others. Other Stewart families are those of Fife, Moray, Menteith, Albany, Ardvairlich, etc.

Robert III. succeeded to the crown, lived often at Perth, and was a witness of the Battle of the North Inch in 1396.

The Stewarts in General.

As to the Stewarts generally: Between 1371 and 1714 (343 years) fourteen Stewarts sat upon the Scottish, and six of these also on the English throne. A race unhappy, as few, they were:—Robert II. (1316-90), Robert III. (c. 1340-1406), who died of grief, his elder son, the Duke of Rothesay, starved to death in a dungeon at Falkland Palace, largely with the cognisance of his uncle, the Duke of Albany, and his second son, James, a captive in England.

Fatalism.

**James I.
to VI.**

James I. of Scotland (1394-1437), for 18 years a prisoner in England, and afterwards assassinated in Blackfriars Monastery at Perth; James II. (1430-60), killed at the siege of Roxburgh by the bursting of a cannon; James III. (1451-88), murdered, with his son in rebellion against him; James IV. (1473-1513), slain at Flodden, and Margaret Drummond of

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Perth, poisoned; James V. (1512-42), died broken-hearted by the rout of Solway Moss; Mary (1542-87), beheaded at Fotheringhay, thrice a widow, and for 20 years a captive; James VI. of Scotland and I. of England (1566-1625); Charles I. (1600-49), beheaded; Charles II. (1630-85), 14 years an exile; James VII. and II. (1633-1701), for 12 years an exile, and again last 12 years of his life; and Mary (1662-94) and Anne (1665-1714), who supplanted him by request, and both died childless. Thus, five of the fourteen met with a violent death; two died of grief; and eight succeeded as minors!

Last of All.

The son and grandson of James VII.—James Francis Edward, the “Old Pretender” of the 1715, and Prince Charlie, of the 1745, were the principal figures of the abortive Jacobite risings!

To Understand.

To understand the Wolf of Badenoch one must needs know his father, who was Robert II. of Scotland. Previous to the death of David II. it had been resolved in Scottish Court circles that following his death he should be succeeded in the Robert the Bruce female line by the nephew of David II. and a son of Marjory Bruce. Earl Douglas put forward a claim as descended from Baliol, and Comyn, a family having previously lands in Ross and Dumfries. Earls March, Moray, and Erskine sided with the claims of Robert II., and Douglas

**Tragic
Endings**

**Female
Line.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Change of
Name.**

Ross.

gave way. In turn, Robert II. gave his daughter Euphemia to Douglas's son in marriage! The after internal strife in the personal affairs of Robert II. was largely the outcome of his own early life—he had first for leman, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Adam Muir—issue three sons and two daughters, of which the Wolf of Badenoch was the third son. John, afterwards King, was for a time under his baptised name of John, Earl of Carrick. The second son, also Robert, became Earl of Monteith and Earl of Fife. Robert II. afterwards married Euphemia, daughter of Hugh, Earl of Ross—issue of two sons and one daughter (young Douglas's wife). The elder son Walter became Earl of Atholl, and the younger, David, became Earl of Strathearn. Still another son, John (illegitimate), was given Kinclaven Castle in 1383 by his father, Robert II., this to a certain extent, accounting for so many of the Stewart family being in Perthshire. Robert II. got his first issue of children legitimised by the Pope (although such was not known for long afterwards). This was the point in the after-disputed succession as to James I. of Scotland. The Ross estates fell to the Wolf of Badenoch, as Earl of Buchan, with dire results to Church life in Morayshire.

Ruthven Barracks.

This picturesque ruin stands on a green circular mound, in a marshy plain on the right bank of the Spey, opposite

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

the village of Kingussie (says "Speyside: Its Scenery, Antiquities, etc.")). The mound is steep on three sides, and tapering towards the top, the area of which is about 120 yds. by 60 yds.; the south wall 9 ft. thick, through which an arched gateway was guarded by a strong iron gate and portcullis. The other walls were 16 ft. high, 4 ft. thick, and the north end of the court had two towers at the corners, some lower buildings, and a draw well.

This land, in the reign of David I. in 1230, came into the possession of the Comyns, who came from Northumberland, and had also lands in Dumfries. In 1291, John Comyn, Lord of Badenoch, acknowledged Edward I. as superior lord of Scotland. His son, Red John Comyn, was slain by the dagger of Bruce in 1306 in St. Michael's Church, Dumfries.

Badenoch.

Robert II. (of Scotland) granted Badenoch to his third natural son, Alexander (Stewart), a species of Celtic Atilla, avaricious and cruel, who seized on the lands of the Bishop of Moray, and refusing to give them up, was after a time excommunicated. This sentence so enraged the Lord of Badenoch that he descended from his fastnesses in the Highlands in 1390 into Moray, and burnt the town of Forres. This act was followed by his burning of the town of Elgin in the following month, as well as the cathedral, maison-dieu, and 18 houses of the canons and chaplains in the college.

**Old-time
Castle.**

**Moray and
Elgin.**

A Royalist Barracks.

Ruthven Castle.

Ruthven Castle, after the Rebellion of 1715, was converted into (military) Royalist barracks having two bastions in the angles, connected by ramparts. When the Rebellion of 1745 broke out, the (Royalist soldiers) company stationed there joined Cope (Sir John) on his march to Inverness, leaving only Sergeant Molly and a dozen men, who in September thereafter, maintained (defended) the barracks against 200 Jacobite rebels, for which heroic conduct Molly was advanced to the rank of Lieutenant.

The Jacobites.

But in the beginning of next year (1746) 300 Jacobite insurgents, on their way to Culloden, under Gordon of Glenbucket, made an attack on the Castle. The Highland force numbered 300, and the barracks, after having withstood three days' cannonading was burnt to the ground, so that now its desolated walls only remain.

All was Over.

Here the Jacobites rallied after the battle of Culloden with a determination to persevere in the contest; and here they received the heart-rending order from the Pretender (Prince Charlie) to disperse, and provide for themselves as they best could—an order which was received by those brave and devoted men with rage, curses, and tears!

Near the ruins (of Ruthven Castle) are traces of a Roman camp, indicated by its square form, and by the circum-



HIGH STREET AND GEORGE STREET CORNER.

stance of a tripod and an urn containing ashes, having been found in the vicinity. There are traces also of the Priory of Kingussie, and a number of Druidical stones, which bear testimony to the many generations which have succeeded each other in this part of the country. Near the castle (of Ruthven) is the farmhouse of Ruthven, built on the site of the old village of the same name. Near this place, the Spey is crossed by a bridge.

Kingussie.

The Celtic name translated, signifies "Head of the Fir Wood." At present the fir-woods in the vicinity are limited. At west-end of village is a small rivulet, the Gynag. Houses near—Pitmain, and Pitmain Lodge, and Nuid farmhouse, a former residence of a branch of the Clan-Chattan Macpherson; Rivullt Altairie, Newtonmore. Another stream, Calder Water. Beyond this the Spey Road is along Truim water to Perth, by Dalwhinnie. Cluny Castle—Cluny Macpherson in hiding, cave at Craig-dhu for 8 years. Escaped to France 1755, died 1756. Cluny Castle burned by Duke of Cumberland.

Border Battles.

Robert II.'s reign was a long series of Border battles, now raiding, and now defending. It was during his reign that famous Otterburn was fought and the Scots achieved a great victory over young Percy (Hotspur), but the brave Douglas fell. A remarkable thing in

**Priory of
Kingussie.**

Robert II.

**Peace and
Lawlessness.**

Robert II. was that all the battles of his time were waged by leaders—Earls of Fife, Douglas, March, and others, and successfully waged! His son John, Earl of Carrick, was lame, and some said indolent. Robert II. was of a quiet disposition. He was good as a ruler in times of peace; administered justice impartially and diligently; steady in conduct; and kept his word if given. Robert II. died at Dundonald on 19th April, 1390, having reigned 19 years and 24 days. The wild life of the Wolf of Badenoch occurred in the North during his reign. John, his eldest son, Earl of Carrick, ascended the throne as Robert III., considering the name John as of evil omen. Robert III. lived largely at Perth and sat on the throne, but Robert, Duke of Albany, his younger brother, who in turn had been Earl of Menteith and Fife, became Regent, and largely directed Scottish affairs to his own ends. Thus Scotland had a weak King, a scheming Regent, and a turbulent semi-independent brother in the North at one and the same time. One of the Wolf's earliest deeds was to uplift the accounts and rents of Dull in 1373.

**Sir Thomas
Dick Lauder.**

The Wolf of Badenoch.

One of the most interesting accounts of the Wolf of Badenoch is that of Sir Thomas Dick Lauder in his historical romance, "The Wolf of Badenoch." Dick Lauder wrote much in his day on Scottish subjects, and in this book he goes on the same lines and in many

chapters quite equals the conceptions of Sir Walter Scott. Lauder opens:—

“It was in the latter part of the fourteenth century that Sir Patrick Hepborne and Sir John Assueton—two young Scottish knights, who had been serving their novitiate of chivalry under the banner of Charles VI. of France, and who had bled their maiden lances against the Flemings at Rosebarque—were hastening towards the Border separating England from their native country. A truce then subsisting betwixt the Kingdoms that divided Britain, had enabled the two friends to land in Kent, whence they were permitted to prosecute their journey through the dominions of Richard II., attended by a circumscribed retinue of some ten or a dozen Norsemen.”

Norham Castle.

As the horsemen journeyed on they came within sight of Norham Castle, the Border fortress for many years of the Bishops of Durham, on the Tweed, and eight miles south-west of Berwick. The place has memories of James IV. of Scotland, and is known through Sir Walter Scott's “Marmion.”

The young Scottish knights had numerous adventures. Ladies fair, witches, a Franciscan friar, lords gay and maidens coy—and a combat and its result! Other incidents included John Dunbar, Earl of Moray, announcing a meeting of arms on the Mead of St. John's, a missing lady, a beautiful page, and Hepborne travelling to Edinburgh and St. Johnstoun, and presenting himself before King Robert II. at Scone, where His Majesty was then holding Court.

**The Novitiate
of Chivalry.**

**The Mead
of St. John's.**

**A King's
Message.**

To Moray.

Hepborne, in audience of the King, said "I go to attend the tourney of my Lord of Moray." In reply the King observed—"If you go by the most direct way into Moray-land, you will pass by our son, Alexander, Earl of Buchan's Castle of Lochyndorbe. You must visit him, and tell him that we ourselves desired you to claim his hospitality."

Midway the Celtic mansion of Duncan MacErchar was reached, and hospitality partaken of. Duncan had been in Ireland and helped to take Carlingford; had been in England; had been with the brave Archibald Douglas, the Grim Lord of Galloway; and had marched into England with the French auxiliaries who came over to St. Johnstoun under Jean de Vian, Comte de Valentinois. Wild bisons and wolves then inhabited Scotland, and the ambush at the Shelter-Stone of Loch Aven was real. The Wolf of Badenoch was a wild human beast.

The First Meeting.

The first meeting with the Wolf of Badenoch is well told by the native guide:—

**A Native
Guide.**

"She be the Wolf of Badenoch yonder," said the guide, pointing downwards with a face of alarm. "The Wolf of Badenoch!" cried Sir Patrick Hepborne, "what, are these the tents of the Earl of Buchan?" For he knew that the King's son, Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan and Lord Badenoch, whom he was about to visit, had obtained that *nom-de-guerre* from his ferocity. "Troth, she's at the hunts there; uve, uve." The sound of a bugle-note came up

the glen. By and by, at the head of a numerous party came a Knight, mounted on a large and powerful black horse.

The Wolf!

"Ha!" cried the Wolf of Badenoch, reining up his curvetting steed, "who in the Fiend's name may you be?" Hepborne having answered, the Wolf fidgeted to and fro upon his horse, and displayed great impatience until he had finished.

"Ha! 'tis well. By my trusty brand, thou are welcome. As for the old man's letter, we shall see that anon when better place and leisure serve. Know this lady, the Lady Mariota Athyn, mother to those five sturdy whelps who ride at my back, and who are wont to call me father."

**A Strange
Welcome.**

A Hunting Encampment.

The party proceeded to the Wolf of Badenoch's hunting encampment.

"Blow the bugle for the banquet," cried the impatient Wolf, and threatened to spit and roast his cook for not having the meal ready. There followed "Wine!—Rhenish!—Malvoisie!—wine, I say!" vociferated the Wolf. "What, ye rogues, are we to perish for thirst!" A heavy carousal followed.

Rousing the Wolf!

The letter from Robert II. alluded to the Wolf living with Mariota Athyn, rather than with his lawful wife, Lady Euphame, Countess of Ross, pointed out mildly the immorality of such, and the threatened ban of holy mother Church, and that it was through his wife he held the rich heritages in land and the title of Earl of Ross. The Wolf was furious when he read the letter, called his father an old bigoted prater, blamed the Bishop of Moray for the threatened ban of the Church, and vented suspicions that only

**Mariota
Athyn.**

**Ruthless
Deeds.**

**Defeat of
Young Percy**

his sister Margery's husband, the Earl of Moray, prevented him from having further land in the north. Such was the insatiable desire for power and possessions of

"The High and Noble Alexander Stewart, Earl of Ross, Lord of Badenoch, and Lieutenant from the bounds of the County of Moray to the Pentland Firth."

Seizing Church Lands.

That did not, however, prevent him from seizing the Church lands in Badenoch, and the herds and flocks, and rents, and of even driving forth the vassal peasants from their homes, who resisted. For these deeds, the Wolf of Badenoch was excommunicated by the Church of Rome. The Wolf of Badenoch in reprisal of the Bishop of Moray's excommunication, burned the town of Forres and later Elgin and its cathedral in 1390.

Battle of Otterburn.

The Battle of Otterburn, in which 2,300 Scots under the Earls of Douglas, Dunbar, and Moray defeated 8,600 English under Young Percy ("Hotspur"), who was made prisoner, had been fought two years previously. Douglas fell! The story tells that after the battle Robert II. hastened to Scone, which the residence of the Court had already made the general rendezvous of the great, to await the return of the Knights from England, and where they were received.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

At Scone.

That the Wolf of Badenoch should unexpectedly arrive at Scone within a year or so of his acts at Forres and Elgin was all in the way of romance. Dick Lauder has it that his dastardly deed at Elgin almost cost him his life, as it did that of some of his sons. On his recovery he journeyed to the Royal Court at Scone, and was received by his father.

A Doting Father.

The King gave strict orders that no one was to be admitted to audience while he conversed with his son. Dialogue best describes the situation:—

"What, has the Earl of Buchan arrived?"

"Yes, he is here. Hast thou not heard that to-morrow the streets of St. Johnstoun will see a sight the like of which hath not been seen in Scotland before? For the fierce and proud Wolf of Badenoch is to walk in penance from the Castle of Perth, where he now hath his lodging, to the Church of Blackfriars. . . . All manner of preparation has been already made for the ceremony, and all the world is making arrangements for witnessing so great a miracle. I, for one, shall assuredly be there."

In the Audience Chamber.

In the audience chamber at Scone the previous day, the King and his son were reconciled to each other. The King promised to journey from Scone to Perth to be at the Castle early on the morrow, to give a blessing to his wayward son.

"The Wolf of Badenoch, ere he left, bowed his head to receive the benediction of good old King Robert II., who wept as he gave it him, and throwing one arm round his son's

**Unexpected
Repentance.**

**Royal
Scone.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

The Terrible Wolf !

Abbots, Priors and Friars.

neck, patted his head with the other hand, kissing his cheek repeatedly, with all the affection of a doting father, who abandons himself to the full tide of his feelings, and who is unwilling to shorten the transports he enjoys."

A. Commotion in Perth.

The news of the intended penitential procession of the King's son, the terrible Wolf of Badenoch, spread like wildfire through the town of St. Johnstoun; as well as throughout the surrounding country, and produced a commotion. The Bishops of St. Andrews, Dunkeld, and Dunblane, had already arrived at the Dominican monastery, each having duly entered the town in great pomp, attended by all the high dignitaries of their respective dioceses. It was a proud triumph for the Church; and secret advices had been sent everywhere, that it might be rendered the more impressive and imposing by the numbers and importance of those religious persons who came as deputations from the different monastic houses which were within reach.

Canons Regular.

Of the canons regular, there were the Abbots of Scone, Inchcolm, and Inchmahome, with the Priors of St. Andrews, Loch Leven, Portmoak, and Pittenweem; of the Trinity, or Red Friars, were the ministers of the hospitals of Scotlandwell, and Dundee; of the Dominicans, or Black Friars, the inmates of the Dominican house of Perth, where the ceremony was to take place, with the heads of the

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

convents of Dundee, Cupar in Fife, St. Monans, and St. Andrews; of the Benedictines, the Abbot of Dunfermline; of the Tyronenses, the Abbot of Lindores; of the Cisterians, or Bernardines, the Abbots of Culross and Balmerinloch; of the Franciscans, or Grey Friars, the Perth members of the Order, and the head of the convent of Inverkeithing; and, lastly, a numerous body of Carmelites, or White Friars, from the house of Tullylumb, near Perth.

**Black, White
and Grey**

Heads of Religious Houses.

All the heads of the religious houses of Perth and surrounding dioceses had attendants, and if the numbers of these holy men were great, that of the laity and common people were tenfold greater. The houses of the city were unable to contain them, and many encamped on the beautiful meadows (called Inches) on the north and south of the town, thankful to huddle themselves under whatever temporary shelter they could procure.

Blackfriars Monastery.

The Blackfriars Monastery, which was to be the scene of the humiliation of the Wolf, was in a ferment of excitement, and many there were who, knowing the turbulent character of the person they had to deal with, muttered secret ejaculations that all were well over.

**Fear and
Doubt.**

The Palace of Scone.

King Robert left the Palace of Scone early in the morning, and entered Perth

The King !

in his litter (a bed vehicle for conveying His Majesty about in), attended by the Regent and courtiers, being desirous to get as quickly as possible into the Castle of the city, which he did. The King's body-guard were drawn up to line the street. The distance was short, but the crowd in that small space was immense, and saluted their monarch.

Anxious Times.

The eyes of the spectators were constantly directed toward the gate of the Castle of Perth. At length the King appeared, attended by the Regent and courtiers, and passed into Blackfriars Monastery, amid the homage of the people. The different religious orders approached the monastery from different directions, and also entered. Inside there was no sound save that of the low hum of voices of the many present, and the going to and fro of those in charge of the arrangements.

The Wolf!

**Suddenly
All Eyes !**

Outside, some time had elapsed when suddenly all eyes were directed towards the Castle-gate as the Wolf of Badenoch appeared, having on his right his confessor, a Franciscan friar, and on his left his two surviving sons, Andrew and Duncan, followed by a train of dependants clad in sackcloth, and walking bare-footed.

At this time the Wolf was about fifty years of age, powerful of build, arrogant

of mein, irasible of temper, and hasty of action. On his own lands he as occasion suited wore the Highland garb in visiting and hunting, and the habiliments of a knight when engaged in war. For him to do penance, no matter his deeds, was to all a wonder!

Astonished.

The Wolf of Badenoch had no sooner issued from the Castle-gate than he appeared to be astonished at the multitude of people who had collected to witness his abasement. Prepared to assume a subdued air, he was roused by the sight, and advanced with his head carried high, haughty in stride, and his eyes flinging a bold defiance to the two walls of human faces lining the way.

Who Knocks?

When the procession had reached the great door of the monastery, the Franciscan friar approached and knocked slowly,

"Who is he who knocketh for admission into the Church of God?" demanded a voice from within.

"Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan and Lord of Badenoch, son of Robert, our most pious King," replied the Franciscan.

"We know right well that there once was such an one as thou doest name," replied the voice, "but now he hath no existence. The great sentence of excommunication hath gone forth against his hardened obstinacy, and the Holy Church knoweth him no longer."

"He cometh here as an humble penitent, to crave mercy and pardon of our Holy Mother Church," replied the Franciscan.

A Surprise!

Once—
Not Now!

**Mercy and
Pardon.**

**Lit by
Tapers.**

Ready to Confess.

"Is he ready to confess his sins against God and man," again demanded the voice. "Is he prepared humbly on his knees to declare his penitence, and to implore that mercy and pardon, the which must of necessity be extended to him ere he can again be received back into the bosom of that Church which he hath so greatly outraged?"

"He is," replied the Franciscan.

"Then, if such be his sincere professions," replied the voice, "let him and all understand, that albeit she can greatly and terribly punish, yet doth the Church delight in mercy, and it is ever her most joyful province to open her doors wide to her sincerely repentant children."

The Populace Dazzled.

These words were no sooner uttered than the church doors were thrown wide open, and the populace were dazzled with the grandeur of the spectacle that presented itself. The verse of a hymn burst from a male-voice choir. The spectators feasted their eyes on the scene. In the centre of the doorway stood the Bishop of St. Andrews, in his right hand a silver crucifix, within his left arm his crosier. Right and left were the Bishops of Dunblane and Dunkeld; behind the dignitaries of the three Sees in the pomp of their pastoral robes. The building was dark, but lit by tapers. The sight was picturesque and imposing.

The Franciscan friar whispered to the Wolf of Badenoch, and he bent till his knees touched the ground. His sons and his followers imitated his example. The Wolf indicated his willingness to confess and repent his sins, and moved towards the high altar.

The Submission.

The most perfect silence prevailed as the Bishop of St. Andrews said:—

"Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan and Lord of Badenoch, dost thou earnestly desire to be relieved from the heavy sentence of excommunication which thy manifold crimes and iniquities have compelled the Church to issue forth against thee,"

"I do," replied the Wolf, in a firm voice.

"Dost thou humbly confess and repent thee of thy sins in general," demanded the Bishop, "and art thou willing to confess and repent thee of each sin in particular at the high altar of this holy temple?"

"I do so repent me, and I am willing so to confess me," replied the Wolf.

I Do So Repent Me.

"Dost thou confess that thou hast greatly sinned in thine abandonment of thine honourable and lawful wife, Euphame Countess of Ross, and dost thou repent thee of this thine offence?"

"I do repent me," said the Wolf in an humble tone.

"Dost thou confess that thou has greatly sinned in taking to thy bosom that foul and impure strange woman, Mariota Athyn?" asked the Bishop, "especially thou being——"

"I do so confess, and I do most sincerely, yea cruelly repent me," cried the Wolf, breaking in impatiently, and with bitterness, on the unfinished question.

"And art thou willing, or dost thou propose to put this strange woman far from thee?"

The Strange Woman.

"I have already turned her forth," shouted the Wolf, in a furious tone, "yea, and before God, at this His holy altar, do I swear that, with mine own will, these eyes shall never see her more."

"And wilt thou take back thy lawful wife?" asked the Bishop, now willing to be as short as possible. "Yes," was the answer.

"I Do!"

Mariota
Athyn.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Miserere
Sung.**

At Peace!

"And now, dost thou sincerely acknowledge and repent thee of all the outrages thou hast done to our Holy Mother Church, as well as to God and his ministers?" asked the Bishop, to which the Wolf replied "I do."

Absolution Granted.

The Bishop then granted absolution and removed the ban of excommunication. Miserere was sung by the choir, a mass chanted, and the Wolf, tired twenty times over, tarried not a moment after it was concluded, but somewhat forcing his way through those present, made a hasty exit. Having gained the open air, he strode along the lane of guards to enter the Castle-gate, carrying with him a long Scottish axe which he had snatched from one of his guards. Entering the Castle he doffed his penance dress and donned the habiliments of knightly rank which became him so well despite his despotic disposition.

Castle of Perth.

Having partaken of a repast, he settled down to his temporary surroundings, became for the time being amiable to his Queen and his sons, looked out on the Hill of Kinnoull, the Tay, and the North Inch meadow adjoining, scanned the Grampian mountains far away, telling of Badenoch to the north and Moray to the east, walked through the courtyard and the Castle of Perth, not a vestige of which now remains.

Dick Lauder gives us a setting of an outrage challenge which originated in the Castle before the King and after the Wolf's penance. The weapons were a lance, a battle-axe, a sword, and a dagger.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

The Lists.

A request being made to the King that the lists might be erected in some situation where spectators could be excluded, a spot was fixed on in a meadow below the Palace of Scone, and men worked unceasingly through the night to have the arena ready for the appointed day of combat. The contestants were Sir Patrick Hepborne and Sir John Haliburton. After the sanguinary contest had continued for a time, a bugle sounded and a mysterious personage arrived, and a message was passed to the King. His Majesty appeared much agitated, gave a signal to the Regent, and in turn the Constable and Marshal with headless lances galloped into the lists and stopped the combat. The two knights passed out by different gates, so that neither should be the first to quit the field!

A Double Marriage.

Later, a double marriage took place at Scone in presence of the King, and the Court, as also the Wolf of Badenoch and his long-neglected spouse, Euphame, Countess of Ross, by the Franciscan friar who afterwards in the monastery at Haddington wrote the chronicle from which much of the particulars given by Dick Lauder are extracted.

Extremes.

It looks like the ordinary ending to a satisfying tale to say that the Wolf of

The Combat.

Happy Ending.

Dust !

Badenoch made good use of the remnant of his life by giving large donations to the Church, ere passing away in 1394. Reason for thinking so is supplied from the following epitaph, which may be read in well-raised black-letter characters sculptured around the edge of the sarcophagus in which his body was deposited in the Cathedral of Dunkeld. There cannot now remain much of his dust.

Alister-More-Mac-an-Righ

in effigy reposes within the sacred building. The epitaph is:—

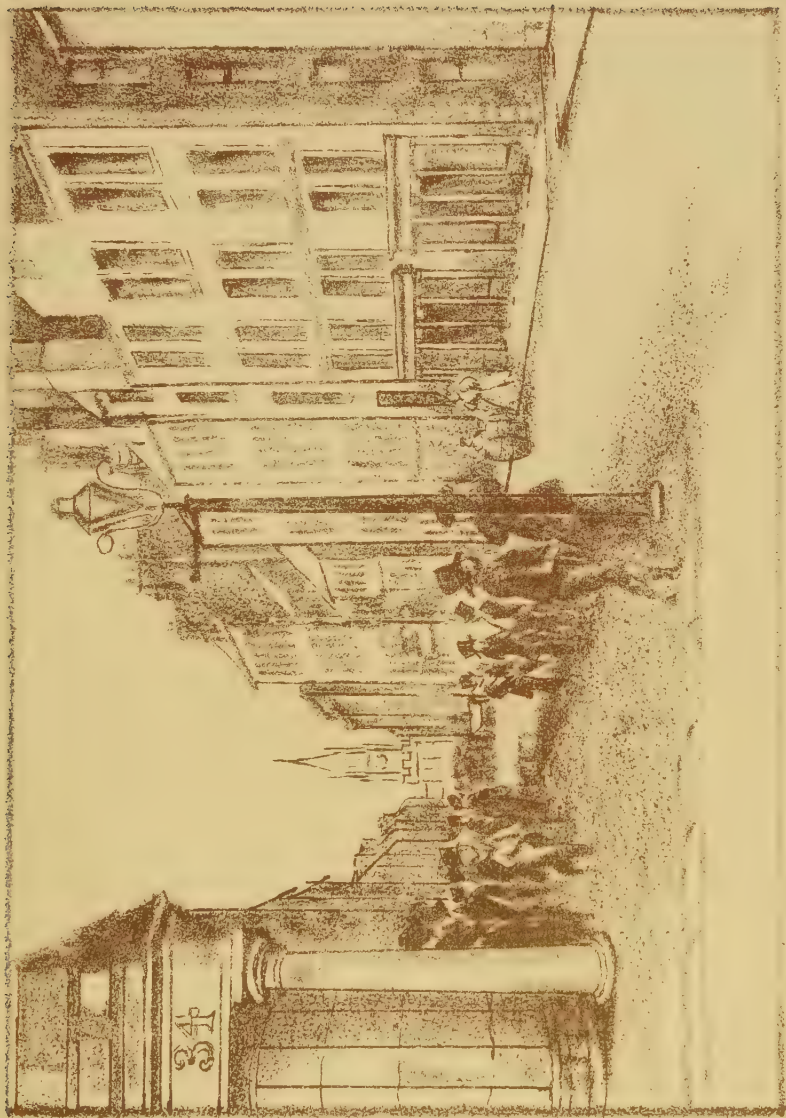
Hic Jacet
Dominus Alexander Seneschallus,
Comes de Buchan et Dominus de Badenoch,
Bonæ Memoriz.
Qui Obiit XX Die Mensis Februarii.
Anno Domini MCCCXCIV.

The Wolf of Badenoch lived but a few years following his submission to and absolution by the Church of the day.

Why Buried at Dunkeld?

Perthshire
Lands.

It is easier raising the question why the Wolf of Badenoch found an earthly resting place in Dunkeld than to answer it. Various explanations have been given. The most reasonable, and most logical, is as follows:—In 1379, his father, Robert II., gave the Wolf of Badenoch the lands of Garth, near Glenlyon, where he built a castle, the ruins of which still exist. The Wolf was married to Euphame, Countess of Ross, but there was no issue of the marriage. However, the Wolf had illegitimate sons who



CORNER OF ST. JOHN STREET AND HIGH STREET circa 1800.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

founded some of the Stewart families in Strath Tay and in Perth. For burning Elgin Cathedral, Robert II. witnessed the Wolf do penance in Blackfriars Monastery of Perth and do (voluntarily) imprisonment in his own castle at Garth.

1390-1394.

Robert II. died in 1390, and after his father's death the Wolf had release till his own death in 1394, which is supposed to have occurred at Garth Castle. It would be the ordinary procedure for him to be buried in Dunkeld Cathedral, the cathedral fane of the Diocese of Dunkeld, in which Garth Castle was situated, as he was of Royal blood! The Wolf was buried there, as biographical notices of him say, and had honour done him in the sculptured representation which still exists.

Interesting.

In August, 1908, during some excavations in Dunkeld Cathedral, remains were found which were supposed to be those of Alexander Stewart, the Wolf of Badenoch!

The Stewarts in Marriage.

Following on the murder of James I. of Scotland in Blackfriars monastery, Perth, in 1437, and buried in the Carthusian monastery which he had mainly brought into being, the Queen of James I., who bore the King two sons and six daughters, afterwards married Sir James Stewart, and bore him three sons, viz., John, Earl of Atholl, James,

**Four Years
Between.**

**Stewart
Lineage.**

**Kinnoull
Church.**

1584, 1664,
1929.

Earl of Buchan, and Andrew, Bishop of Moray. She died (shortly after the death of her second husband) in 1446.

The Queen Margaret of James IV., killed at Flodden (daughter of Henry VII. and sister of Henry VIII.), as a widow married Archibald Douglas, Earl of Angus, bore him a son, and divorced him in 1525. The marriage of Queen Margaret and the Earl of Angus took place in Kinnoull Parish Church. In 1526, Margaret married Henry Stuart, second son of Lord Evandale, afterwards Lord Ochiltree. James V. raised Stuart to the peerage in 1539 as Lord Methven. Margaret took up her abode at Methven Castle and died there in 1544. and was buried in the Carthusian monastery of Perth beside James I. and Queen Joanne. Lord Methven afterwards married Janet, daughter of the Earl of Atholl. A son, Henry, became second Lord Methven. One daughter married Colin. Earl of Argyll, and another William, Lord Ruthven, first Earl of Gowrie. The third Lord Methven died in 1584 without issue, and the title became extinct. James VI. conferred the lordship on the Duke of Lennox, who in 1664 sold the castle and estate to Patrick Smythe of Braco, represented to-day by Miss Smythe, Moulin-Almond, only daughter of the late Colonel David Murray Smythe of Methven.

Smugglers and Smuggling

In Perth and Perthshire

"Donald and his smuggled drappie."

—Perthshire Song.

So well-known in literature and in conversation are the terms Smugglers and Smuggling that one is apt to pass them over without enquiring as to their origin. They are so familiar to us that we might take it for granted that they belong to Scotland. Not so; it is one more instance of things of doubtful commendation having their origin in England. Scotsmen and Scotland sometime follow bad examples. "Smeagan" and "smeaguring" are old English, and signify to creep stealthily, with the object of secrecy. This fits in well with the methods of those who followed the practice of smuggling. Briefly, Smuggling is a breach of the Revenue laws, either by the importation, or exportation, of prohibited goods, or, alternatively, by the evasion of Customs payments on goods liable to duty.

Early Times.

In England, legislation was in force as early as 1351 against the illicit introduction of base coin, which was then reckoned treason. In Scotland, in the earlier years of the 18th and 19th centuries, smuggling was rampant—but the contraband had changed. It was not

Origin.

18th & 19th
Centuries.

Sir John
Cope.

filthy lucre, but such "hot stuff" as rum and brandy, wines, spirits, tobacco, tea, and sugar. These articles were smuggled to such an extent as to seriously reduce the Scottish revenue and entail an unenviable notoriety on the administration of the country and its morals. So general was smuggling in Great Britain for a time that in 1732 Sir John Cope (afterwards to have his military ability so badly blurred by the Jacobites at Prestonpans) was appointed head of a Government Committee to report upon "Frauds on the Revenue," and to suggest a remedy. But Johnny Cope was no more successful as head of a Royal Commission than he was at the head of the Royalist troops against Prince Charlie.

Palliation.

In palliation of Scotsmen engaging in smuggling to such an extent as they did, and on the off-chance that the forebears of some present day readers may have known how to "mak' a wee drappie o't," the words of the great Adam Smith may be quoted on the subject:—

Philosophy.

"A smuggler is a person who, though no doubt highly blameable for violating the laws of his country, is frequently incapable of violating those of natural justice, and would have been in every respect an excellent citizen had not the laws of his country made that a crime which Nature never meant it to be."

That surely is philosophic absolution for the smuggling offences of our ancestors, male and female, even unto the second, third, and fourth generation.

Usquabagh.

The distilling of usquabagh, now known as whisky, is not of great antiquity. Yet whisky is old enough to defy any one fixing a date, or a place, and saying with authority that it was first produced in such a year and in such a place. Under its older name, whisky has been known for a long time, and that time extends back to a dim past. It was produced from succulent plants, such as pease, beans, corn, turnips, and potatoes. Ultimately barley became the favourite cereal, and has continued so to the present time. Glenlivet and Islay in early times were distilling centres. Speyside and Morayshire claim at the present day to be par excellence Scotland's whisky-making and barley-growing centres. Danish and Canadian grain are anathema to the farmers of these districts, if not to the distillers. Nairn natives have faith in themselves, and in the products of their district, for a man long resident in Perth was often heard to declare—

"I can drink anything brewed out of barley."

Smuggling on a Big Scale.

Smuggling on a big scale was going on in Scotland long before the "honest" crofters of the Highlands took to it. Sir Walter Scott, in one of his novels, gives a typical picture of the contraband trade on the Solway coast. Hush! the conditions existing in Perth and district were very much of a like nature. The registered tonnage of the Port of Perth

**Succulent
Plants.**

**"Honest
Men."**

**Perth
Trading.**

consists at present of (at least) one dredger! Some 150 years ago Perth was a busy shipping centre with the coming and going of schooners to all parts of the world. In the words of one of the famous Five Brothers Graham, of Perth, their ships went to not only all ports of the known world but to some in the "unknown" world! The trading of those days included the importation of foreign spirits (legal and illegal).

The Dutch Coast.

**"Green
Label."**

Rum and brandy were largely smuggled in from the Dutch coast. Where the Church of Kinnoull now stands was a boat-house—the site seems to have for long been a spiritual one—and the boat-house was a much frequented rendezvous of Perth smugglers. The old gentleman who for years managed the boat-house, bought largely from the shipping smugglers. Having an extensive garden attached to his premises, he concealed the ankers underground and planted vegetables over them! During the smuggling season, the vegetables were observed to be often newly planted! They were Brussels sprouts — late earlies. A hint to present day wholesale whisky houses—Why not a green label? The neighbouring quarry was also a suitable place to conceal "the stuff." It was the abode or haunted by a witch who only emerged when ordinary people had retired for the night, or should have been. The story continues that the boatman of Kinnoull realised a fortune in

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

the illicit traffic, and at his death left considerable property in Bridgend.

From France and Spain.

Perth smugglers brought direct to the town large cargoes of wine and brandy direct from France and Spain. They began to supply Leith and other places at a rate outwith what the wholesale merchants at these places could buy and sell at. This created a suspicion that all was not right at Perth. A vessel arrived at the Lime Shore at foot of Canal Street. She had cleared the Custom House at Perth as to rum, wine, etc., and was being unloaded. At this point an officer from Edinburgh appeared, and on making a second inspection found that the vessel had been entered at much less than the amount of duty chargeable upon the cargo. The Perth Revenue officers who were alleged to have been going hand-in-hand with the illicit traders were dismissed. Perth declined in imports! They knew not the P.T. port of Peter Thomson, Perth, in these days.

**Suspicion
Created.**

The Firth of Forth.

On the Firth of Forth, a notable smuggling affair did not end so "peacefully" as that of Perth—it ended tragically, and became known, and continues to be known, as the Porteous Mob. On 9th January, 1736, at Pittenweem, Fife, three smugglers robbed an Excise Collector of over £100. They were:—Wilson, Kirkcaldy; Robertson, an Edinburgh inn-keeper; and Alex. Hall. All were later

**Porteous
Mob.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

16 Persons Killed.

arrested, tried, and sentenced to death. In these days, there was attendance at St. Giles' Church by prisoners on the Sunday previous to execution—called the condemned sermon. One of the prisoners purposely hit one of the prison warders in church, and caused an uproar, followed by stone-throwing by the mob. Captain Porteous called out the City Guard, after a time ordered them to "fire" on the crowd, and 16 persons were killed or wounded. Porteous was later lynched, and hanged on a dyer's pole. The City Guard of Edinburgh was abolished. Porteous' widow was granted £1,500.

Seed—and Seed.

Days of Lint-Seed.

During the late Great War, and for a short period afterwards the question of Scotland once more growing flax was much discussed and to a considerable extent entered upon, thanks to the enterprise of Mr. Proctor, Blairgowrie. In 1784, several vessels were freighted with lint seed and lint from Rotterdam to Perth. But waulkmills are now things of the past; the word is still kept alive as a place-name in Waulkmill Ferry to the north of Perth. Upwards of 3,000 bushels of lint-seed were imported per annum to Perth, besides hundreds of barrels of lint-seed from Riga on the Baltic, the latter being of coarser quality than that got from Rotterdam. There was a suspicion that the barrels which came from Holland and Russia did not all contain lint-seed—but as an old person was in the habit of remarking, if the



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH circa 1733.

barrels passed the Custom House authorities, "that was naebody's business!"

Nemesis.

The story goes that a well-known vintner, or tavern-keeper, of her day, who had premises at the Pomarium end of Newrow, was not above dealing direct with the smuggling skippers. A cargo of rum had been successfully "run" from Flanders (the land of the Flemings) to the Port of Perth. It had been as quietly and successfully conveyed from the ship's side to the capacious cellars of the tavern. The vintner, who paid all accounts herself, proceeded the following evening to the Shore-head to hand over payment for goods received.

**Smuggling
Skippers.**

A Surprise.

The captain duly received his customer on board, adjusted financial matters, and intimated that such a successful venture must be honoured. One or two others in the know also dropped into the cabin. Soon all was merry as a marriage bell. Healths were drunk, and good luck wished to the next cargo! As the joviality was at its height a messenger arrived to say that Luckie's tavern was on fire! The good lady departed with all convenient speed. As she neared her premises only too well did she see flames mounting skywards. Matters were as reported. A customer had accidentally dropped a light, which found its way into the cellar, and set the inflammable con-

**Luckie's
Tavern**

**Oatmeal
and Whisky.**

**Barley for
the Still.**

tents on fire! Some people of the day declared that it was retribution on Luckie's head for not paying Revenue duty. But some folk will say anything!

The Highlands.

In the good old days it was believed that the inhabitants of the Highlands grew a pickle of oats for oatmeal and a pickle of barley for whisky, and for the rest drank home-brewed ale and lived on cakes and cheese, braxy and salt bacon—not the present-day “sugar-cured bacon” of Mr. Alex. Thomson, of Old High Street, Perth. In a word, that the Highlanders were self-supporting! Much of the information from books does not bear this out regarding life among the hills in old times. The inhabitants of the large stretches of moorland-ground in Perthshire had their herds of native black cattle and tilled what cultivatable land they had. The cattle were sold at local fairs, or at the Perth and Falkirk big markets. Perth was depended upon for articles not home produced. Wheat and wheaten bread were little known. Corn was grown for oatmeal, and barley for the broth-pot and the illicit still. Large quantities of meal in the many years of dearth were sent to the Perthshire Highlands from vessels arriving at Perth harbour. Potatoes and turnips were little grown; lint was the staple industry. Tea was a luxury; home-brewed ale from herbs, etc., the table liquid.

Lint.

The Highlanders, and Lowlanders too, grew lint on farms; submitted it to the various processes of waulking and spinning by which it became linen, bleached it, and the finished article was sent to Perth for sale. In turn the vendors took home with them oatmeal and corn, and coals for the laird! In those days, only lairds burned coal; common folk burned wood, peat, and sods. Large quantities of whisky were brought from the Highland districts to Perth with the linen. If the truth must be told, whisky producing paid better than flax-growing. "Honest folk" in the Carse of Gowrie conveyed their "stuff" to Dundee; those of Loch Earn district to Stirling. But Perth was ever "the gateway of the Highlands." Dwellers near to the Isla and Ericht, Tummel and Tay, and the districts of Atholl and Breadalbane, Glenlyon and Amulree usually brought their whisky to the Fair City.

"Cam' ye by Athol?"

"Cam' ye by Athol, lads wi' the philabegs," was written in regard to the Jacobites, but many lads from Breadalbane and Atholl landed in Perth, as well as others from the glens of Braemar, Glen-shee, Kirkmichael, Rannoch, Aberfeldy, Tullymet, Balnaguard, Logierait, Strathbraan, the Stormont, Logiealmond, and nearer home. The Ochil hills were honey-combed with illicit stills, "the stuff" from which passed into Fife and

**Lairds and
Coal.**

**Perthshire
Glens.**

On the Eve of a Fair.

Decoy Gangs.

Stirling. All was well if the smugglers managed to get their kegs into Perth unmolested; if they did not, there was usually hard knocks agoing. Smugglers preferred to try and convey their stuff by companies rather than as individuals. The usual practice of the smugglers was to arrange to meet at a certain place, and descend on Perth before, or on the eve of a fair when all was bustle. At such a time, there were many individuals travelling on horseback or by primitive carts. The smugglers trusted to "enter the city" with the crowd of travellers "in peace."

Is It a Fight?

Their numbers gave them confidence should they have to fight for their whisky. On the backs of "shalties," as their ponies were called, among other goods were secreted kegs of whisky of 4 to 6 gallons. The Excisemen were constantly on the watch for the smugglers and the smugglers were as constantly on the watch for the Excisemen. Fierce struggles frequently ensued. While the Excisemen would be detaining one lot of men and examining the contents of the packs on the backs of the ponies, other bands would make off and escape. Again, the smugglers would arrange that one suspicious-looking gang should be allowed to be captured, and tell-tale kegs be found among their goods! A wrangle ensued as to whether the parties would or would not go peaceably to the Tol-booth! The kegs seized were found to be filled with amber-coloured water!

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

No trick was considered too low-down if the Gauger could be hoodwinked. Once inside Perth, "the stuff" was quickly conveyed to Luckie this, or Luckie that, accounts settled, and the proceedings finished off with an honest dram!

"A Perfect Day—and Otherwise."

Such was the ending of a peaceful and successful adventure—what the smugglers regarded as a perfect day! Many of the outings, however, did not end thus happily. Parties would be "surprised" en route. It then became a question as to whether the smugglers would be able to hold their own against the Excise officers. The latter were often backed up by soldiers. Then imprecations, in Gaelic and English, were heard on every side, and on every sire and son of a Hanoverian Government and all others who conspired to prevent Dougal Cratur and others from living the life that best suited them, and best paid them! These smuggling forays were desperate affairs, and bloodshed often resulted. There was a grimness in these struggles which makes them better to read of than to take part in. Fighting for smuggled whisky, or a "scrap of paper," the Highlander is the last man to yield!

The Highlander of the whisky smuggling era was an individual who "followed his chief to the field," and cared little for William and Mary, and less for the King Geordie of those days. His contempt went the length of "giving the

**Parties
Surprised.**

**The Last
to Yield. !**

**King
Geordie.**

soo's tail to Geordie." They and their fathers had made usquabagh without let or hindrance, had sold it, and had bought meal and other goods with the money they had received. What right had Geordie to say that they must pay something to the Government when "they" had grown the barley to make it? They knew nothing of what was called "duty," and cared less for it, or for the Government which passed such laws. Laws were made in London, by Englishmen, and enforced by Lowland loons "who neither spoke their tongue nor wore their tartan."

"Awa' Whigs, awa',
Your nought but a set o' thochtless loons,
Ye dae nae guid awa'."

Such were the heart-sentiments of the Highlanders of the period. It took them a long time to conform to the changed conditions following on the Jacobite risings of '15 and '45. The Highlander then was as difficult to convince of the advantage of duty on whisky as we of our day are of the "advantage" of some of the recent Acts in regard to health and housing, larger educational districts, and de-rating.

**The Law and
Old Adam.**

"I To The Hills."

Driven by the irresistible arm of the Law from open smuggling the Old Adam took to the hills. The curtailment of supplies to taverns caused "the stuff" to go up in price. This was the romantic period of smuggling in Scotland. Forced to set up their stills in mountain caves

beside running streams, the smugglers pursued their loved and profitable vocation with a devotion worthy of the Covenanters for another cause. For a time all would go well. The darkness of the night allowed the "reek" to ascend to the clouds, the burn carried away much that was incriminating, and the "brew" was safely conveyed to some neighbouring town. But ever and anon the Gaugers would get "word," and then the smugglers each did the best he could for himself, and "scattered" till the danger was past. Sometimes the Gauger failed utterly in his quest; at other times he found a "mare's nest"; often the worm and other paraphernalia would be captured and brought to Perth—those concerned in smuggling often shared the same fate.

**The Law v.
Smuggling.**

Some Stories.

Stories are legion as to kegs of "the stuff" being secreted under the floor of the dwelling-house; in a bed beside a person said to be ill with measles; used as a stool while a woman gave milk to a child; "water for the horse" underneath a horse-manger; and in a pig sty as company to "Sandy Campbell." Once upon a time a hard-working couple worked a small bit of land near a hill-side, and their beasts consisted of an orra horse, three stirks, a pig, a coo', and a calf. That calf was a stuffed one, had a somewhat dark stall to itself, and in times of danger was able to hold an entire makin', freely giving it forth again.

**Some
Subterfuges.**

**Fun, and
Devilment.**

**Embarked
on
Smuggling.**

from a spigot when the coast was clear. Such was life in the Highlands in smuggling times.

The Gauger of Grandtully.

When smuggling was at the height of its popularity "the lads of Grandtully" took a hand at the game—more for the sake of frolicsome fun and daredevilment than systematic profit. When the "worm," in the form of "visits," became too hot they allowed it, and their ardour for adventure, to cool. They were quite content to have had it said—"Grandtully was once a great place for smuggling!" In one case, where it was being worked at a profit, it was continued, and of course, the farm aye kept weel foorit. One morning a farmer was up be-times, but he saw that "his neighbour" and his men had been up hours before, judging by the improvements being made at the steading. He pointed out to his own sons the example of industry to be seen over the way. The fact was that, without telling anyone but his household, No. 1 had embarked on an "extension" in regard to smuggling. The soil had been excavated from underneath the farm "midden," and the necessary utensils and a number of kegs deposited, leaving space for one or two individuals to work the still. Water was got by laying a pipe to a burn someway off, and another pipe allowed the water to rejoin the burn further down the stream.

Pipes—And Pipes.

Another pipe led to one of the chimneys of the house. The thing was simplicity itself, and the profits were considerable. But alas, and alack. A young Revenue officer had suspicions that whisky was coming out of Grandtully—but where from was a mystery. At last his lynx-eye noticed foam on the water of a burn. He tramped a mile or two, and the foam gradually ceased! He went home and reasoned with himself that operations were over for the present, and were done at night rather than through the day. Allowing sometime to elapse he returned to the stream one evening. All seemed right. From one of the farmhouse chimneys a strong peat-reek was issuing. He cautiously advanced to the farmhouse, looked in at a window. There was no fire in the grate! He knocked at the door and asked if he could see through the house—"No," was the answer. Could he see the farmer—"No," was the answer, "he is from home."

**A Great
Mystery.**

Caught!

Hovering about the house, he was confronted by the farmer, who seemed to have emerged from nowhere. There was a wordy altercation, and suddenly the farmer resolved to be done with the business, and tell everything. He did so; and showed the still underground. There was a seizure; a trial at Perth; and a term of imprisonment. During that term the man who could already not only

Solution.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

read but write Gaelic, learned to read the New Testament in Greek. He later got a situation in Perth, and for many years was a respected resident in the city. Your Revenue authorities are persistent, and found that the smuggled whisky had been conveyed to and disposed of in Dundee. The "buying" end stopped with the producing one.

Some Stories.

Perth.

One or two good stories are told as to how smuggled whisky was conveyed into Perth. The main entrance to the city was through the North Port. The gateway nearest to the Town House was always well guarded. It was, therefore, theoretically and practically best for smugglers to get into the city by a less frequented way. A somewhat quiet access was that on the west side of the town. A favourite tavern was in the Old High Street, opposite Paul Street. This place had the reputation of having the best smuggled whisky in the city. Its "bonded stores" were underground receptacles and hollow walls. Luckie Elshander kept a good dram and did a big trade. Her husband was a cattle-dealer and sometimes a cattle-lifter. Smugglers chose their own time of arriving and disposing, no questions were asked, and even in these days it was c.o.d. Ponies arrived in Perth with more than their hides under their saddles; a man often carried "a bag of oatmeal" on his back which was made into "Athol brose"; beggars were pressed into ser-

Typical Times.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

vice—the better known the less chance of suspicion; in the days of crinolines bladders of whisky hung from women's waists; a man's "chest protector" was often a hollow tin clasped round his body. A preference in duty on beer was given to parties engaging in the trade on a large scale. Thus came into being such breweries as Craigie, Clockserrie, and Perth, and later St. Catherine's, St. John's, South Inch, and Wesley Place, and Mr. Hugh Cameron, Watergate.

**Perth
Breweries.**

The Beautiful Snow.

A story long current in Perth had a setting of beautiful snow! Some smugglers, "sure" that all was safe in Perth, drove in a horse and cart with supposed straw for a stable! Somebody gave the show away, and no sooner was the countryman and his cart past the South Street Port than he was pounced upon by two Excise officers. A five minutes' search showed what the "load" consisted of—four kegs of whisky. To the Tolbooth was the order! The affair took place in the early hours of a winter's morning, and a tailor who had been wine-ing too well the previous evening was on the street with a thirst. Two Excise officers, a countryman, and a horse and cart making for the Tolbooth required no index finger. The knight of the thimble was a man who did his thinking quickly. Following up the cart, he looked in behind, and sure enough contraband stuff! The Excise officers and

**A Tailor's
Thirst.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Perth Place-Names

the countryman were engaged in a heated altercation. The tailor liited a keg out, and laid it among the snow.

Successful!

Successful in one instance he repeated the act other three times. The horse and cart continued its course—the tailor conveyed the kegs of whisky to an old building in the Resurrection Close—a close to the west of Horners' Lane, first forming part of Messrs. Ramsay's china premises and now Messrs. Croall's big motor garage. The close got its rather startling name through one of its occupants being engaged for years in the gruesome practice of lifting dead bodies from graveyards and selling them. The Perth Mint Close (stamping of silver) is understood to have been the Guard Vennel.

The Tolbooth.

No Evidence.

Arrived at the Tolbooth the countryman was reported to be a smuggler and in possession of illicit whisky. The officers went to carry in the "productions in the case"; the kegs were gone! The smuggler was allowed to go as there was no evidence! He took himself off with his horse and cart, but he was as mystified as the officers. The Excise officers said nothing about the matter in case their superiors might hear of it; neither did the smuggler. The tailor alone knew, and for weeks he and his cronies were "fou."

Pomarium.

A story goes that one district of Perth in olden-times knew little of smuggling—and that district, Pomarium. For many years it was outwith Perth as to Royalty and the laws of craft trading and restrictions. The reason for the non-smuggling propensity was that they were all more or less weavers, keen politicians, and when not “engaged at the looms” were busy discussing how France should be governed and military battles fought! The coming into being of Pomarium is a unique bit of local history. The word is from pomme, an apple—orchard. The ground was originally part of the western area of the Carthusian monastery of Perth, the site of which is now occupied by King James VI. Hospital. If one may judge of a certain transaction which took place in Perth during Cromwell’s time (about 100 years after the monastery had been demolished by a mob), a good horse at that period (1651) was considered of more advantage than a rental from farm land. It is related of John Davidson, who took an active part in the defence of Perth against Cromwell, that he gave a tack of the “lands of St. Leonard’s” to Campbell of Aberuchill, Loch Earn, for a charging horse to fight against Cromwell! Davidson, at a later date, sold the lands to the Glover Incorporation, who, continuing them for a time as farms, orchards, etc., afterwards feued them to inhabitants, retaining the right of title to the grounds as superiors.

**Mighty
Events.**

**“My Lands
for a Horse!”**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**One-Time
Water-Ways**

Good—and Evil!

The Secessionist movement of 1732 was a pronounced ecclesiastical change in Church conditions in Scotland. It meant new buildings—and buildings of the best. The cry was “get Rannoch fir” for timber, and hewn stone for stability. The trees were cut on the shores of Loch Rannoch, trimmed, and then floated by one water course after another to Perth. To help in the matter, Campsie Linn, at Stanley, was partially blasted. The Rannoch fir logs duly arrived in Perth, and underneath the floating rafts were “skins” of smuggled whisky. That Secessionists should have indirectly helped smugglers—Oh!

The Muirton Fields.

**“Jas Man.
1769.”**

The Muirton fields are often referred to in the history of Perth particularly as to Church discipline and the matter of golf. The “fields” stretch from the North Inch to the River Almond and are bounded on the west by the Great North of Scotland Road to Inverness, and on the east by the River Tay. In olden times the road from Inverness “came through” the North and South Muirton farms to North Inch. Mid-way in the “fields” was the village of Muirton, now marked by only one or two farm cottages. The village of Muirton had an inn! A curious find occurred on 20th April, 1854. A ploughman working on South Muirton fields found a glass bottle on which was stamped, “Jas. Man, 1769.”

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Jas. Man was the landlord of the public-house at the Muirton in the latter half of the 18th century. At one time there were some 80 to 100 families in Muirton Village! Jas. Man's "change house" was much frequented on Sundays by denizens of the Fair City not distinguished for their church-going habits. His place was, at the commencement of the French Revolution, frequented by the Perth "Friends of the People," and "consultations held in the house as to ridding the world of tyrants and priests!" In these days when a difficult proposition was on hand they took a pinch of snuff! Two pinches at this point.

A Macnab Story.

"The" Laird of Macnab of his day was a personage in a hundred, and the family lands and burial-place situated on the banks of the Dochart, at the head of Loch Tay. Many stories are told of "the Laird." Two Sheriff Officers went to his residence one evening asking payment of a long over-due account. They were hospitably entertained on arrival, and put up for the night. Next morning they saw three figures dangling in a tree; they left without asking for payment. A smuggling story: a few of the Clan Macnab were on one occasion held up between Stirling and Linlithgow suspected of conveying smuggled whisky to Edinburgh. The Laird galloped up in a seemingly great passion, and seeing the Revenue Officers

**Dangerous
Friends.**

**Justified
Discretion.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

The
Essentials.

told his men to get ready, prime—but before he got out the word “Fire!” the officers were off on their horses! Some good kegs of whisky were in a short time landed in Edinburgh.

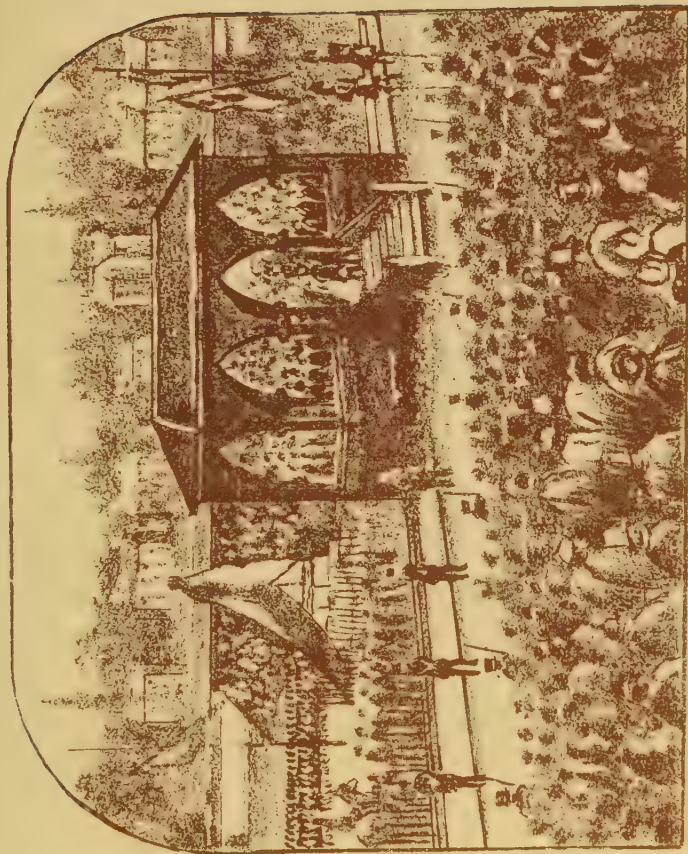
“Cheepin’ Shops.”

— In days of old licences to deal in “spirits, porter, and ale” were issued direct by the Excise. The chief recommendations for such was the possession (1) of a good character, so far as known, and (2) being an old soldier. A hundred years ago granting of licences by county justices or city magistrates was unknown. Revenue officers were the preventive force in these days. Rest and refreshment for man and beast (be it ever so primitive) was the underlying principle. Many “out of the way houses” supplied both, and allowed the Excise officers to find out for themselves if they did or did not.

Roadside Inns.

Was it
Stanley ?

Roadside inns usually consisted of little more than a four-roomed house, and a stall or two as stabling. Bars and parlours were of more recent nomenclature, and most of the drinking took place in the kitchen, or in the big room. Small varnished oak barrels contained the whisky and rum, bottled beer was got from the brewery carts of Messrs. John Wright and Co. and Messrs. Muir and Martin of Perth on their rounds; a “welcome word” from the landlord or landlady never failed to make a popular



QUEEN VICTORIA UNVEILING THE PRINCE ALBERT STATUE, PERTH, 1864.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

house. A stone floor, an open fireplace with white jams and a big svey for the kail-pot; the kitchen dresser, table, and other articles of furniture spotlessly white; braw "pented" bowls and other articles of delft; candlesticks and other brass articles shining like mirrors, a big peat on the fire, and sand on the blue hearth—and there you have a tavern of the olden time! "Freends" dropped in at all times and on all occasions—if the weather was wet, it was necessary to get a dram to put warmth in them, if the weather was warm it was as necessary to get a drink of ale to cool them!

Tolls.

The introduction of "tolls" for the upkeep of roads led to the building of toll-houses and thus came into being a semi-public resort, which was a "full public" in many instances. To get a drink at the toll-bar, became an anticipation in many cases realised! It was easy enough for toll-keepers to get whisky from smugglers (or make it themselves, which it is said many of them did). "Smart" was the word in ordering, and the same in drinking. The shaking of hands and the clasping of fingers (and what was between) was often a more leisurely process. The landlord, or his good lady, was ever the person at the doorway to speed the departing guest, or welcome the new one. At other times "scores" were quietly settled in the middle of some joke or story, and in these days it did not do to be particular in regard to change!

**"Freends"
Dropped In.**

**Free
Masonry (?)**

Tea-Pot Inn.

In a "private" house in the wilds of Rannoch, no one not even an Exciseman ever saw a tumbler! "Everything" (and good stuff at that) was served from a tea-pot into cups! The servant lassie went round with a plate for "the collection" at intervals. For years the place got the name of the "Tea-Pot Inn." Other out-of-the-way places in Perthshire were visited by "coussins Mackintosh" who always asked for whisky in Gaelic. Even at the present time the Muir of Durdie, on the high road from Perth to Dundee, is a little frequented place. A hundred years ago, illicit distilling was so prevalent that a party of Scots Greys from Perth had to go and clear out "the muir." Something similar took place at Corriemuckloch (Crieff); a song was composed in "honour" of the affair, and sung to the tune of "The Tinker's Wedding." The last in Perth district is said to have been at Old Scone, where a special "brew" of lemonade and a biscuit cost 6d.—"and drink quick, and mak' room for ithers!" Mention of the biscuit, recalls the fact that, in many of the older public-houses in Perth, along with a gill of whisky, for each person sharing in the "refresh" a biscuit was at one time given gratis, sometimes a "spel-dron" (a dried fish). In Blairgowrie, an innkeeper was generosity personified (even a hundred years ago)—he had salted herring on the counter, free gratis and for nothing, for all who cared to partake. His customers usually drank

**Some
Stories.**

**The Free
Biscuit.**

ale or porter, and the more salt herring they ate the more ale or porter they ordered and consumed. Blairgowrie often goes one better than the rest of the world!

"The Highland Line."

"The Highland Line" is variously interpreted as having something to do with a geographical portion of Scotland, the birthplace of true Highlanders, and Excise revenue arrangements in olden times. The latter circumstance caused the phrase to come into being. Following on the reduction of the duty on whisky by the Government of the day, under Dundas, a new division of Scotland as to what was Highland and what was Lowland was created. This dividing boundary became known as "The Highland Line." To the north of an "area-line" drawn by the Revenue laws "small stills" were allowed to be worked. The first "Highland line" was to the south of Perth, and accordingly a number of 40-gallon stills were erected to the north of the city. The coppersmiths of Perth were soon busily employed making stills for the small distillers. Unlike the Pauline lament the coppersmiths of Perth did the town much good. At an early period there was a Patrick Bisset, coppersmith, and Messrs. D. Gorrie and Son, 27 South Methven Street, Perth (E. A. Gorrie), are not only world-wide known as coppersmiths and engineers for the making of utensils used in the whisky trade, but for similar articles

**Excise
Revenue.**

**Much
Good!**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Call for
Coppers.**

used in the dyeing trade for which Perth is also famous. Sir Walter Scott in "The Fair Maid of Perth" "places" Hal o' the Wynd's residence and smithy in the Mill Wynd portion of these unique premises, and Hal o' the Wynd was the city blacksmith and armour-maker of his day. The latest Board of Health recommendation is that a "copper" should be in every scullery for the speedy and cleanly washing of clothes. Nowadays even the gas-meter "cries" for a copper!

The Intention.

**300 Bolls
Duty Free.**

It was the intention of the members of the Legislature to allow small distilleries already in existence to make the quantity required for household needs, or retailing on a small scale. Small distilleries, however, sprung up in all directions. During the last year of their existence there were in Perth and vicinity no fewer than 23 small distilleries! Each contained two stills of 40-gallon capacity—one for "singling," and the other for "doubling." By the Act of Parliament, they were allowed to distil 300 bolls of malt, duty free, in the course of the year—a duty of £40 a year being paid on the still. When more than 300 bolls were distilled, the malt duty was paid on the extra quality. For some years this was a most lucrative Perth business for those engaged in it. The selling of the "grains" and "lees," which were freely bought by Perth cow-feeders, more than paid for the duty on the still! Perth milk at that time and

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

for years afterwards was famous for the richness of its quality, and Perth cows brought high prices when sold fat to the butchers.

A Pint of Whisky for 1s. 2d.

The "Highland line" small distillers were able to sell the very best whisky at 14d. the pint, with an additional pint if "a score" (20) were taken. At this time Perth was famous for the strength and quality of its whisky. The present-day fame of Perth whisky is thus no new thing. The trade was profitable to those engaged in it, and to the community generally. Milk was of excellent quality and abundant in consequence of the dillery grains, or draff. Teetotallers were unknown. The bakers of the city were provided with a plentiful supply of home yeast for the baking of bread, and the loaf was cheap!

Politics.

Political party strife suddenly destroyed Perth's flourishing and beneficial trade. A year or two previously a number of inhabitants had joined a movement for the lowering of the franchise. The object was to obtain a vote at Parliamentary elections, which was afterwards got by the Reform Bill. Perth went further than many other places and brought into being a body known as "The Friends of the People"—something after the nature of the Sein Feiners of Ireland and the Bolsheviks of Russia of the present day. "The Friends of the

**Whisky
Fame.**

Reform Bill

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Rt Hon.
H. Dundas.

People" held high revelry in Perth for a time. One night they burned, in effigy, in front of the Royal George Hotel, Perth, the Secretary of State for the time being, the Right Hon. Henry Dundas. A "Tree of Liberty" was also planted at the Cross and lit with candles. It is all very well to "rag" if the other party is too feeble to retaliate. Dundas and his party awaited their opportunity. The quid pro quo was that shortly afterwards the "Highland line" in regard to Excise matters was thrown eight miles, and in some parts to fifteen miles (Dunkeld) to the north of Perth! It is dangerous to "tar and feather" anybody, or anything.

"Forbes Mackenzie."

Cronies
o' Mine!

The people of Scotland did not take kindly at first to the Forbes Mackenzie Act of 1853, which introduced the permitted hours as 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., the curtailment in small inns at 11 p.m., and non-sale on Sundays. In general, the principle did good for Scotland, and was especially welcomed as to week-days, which prevented say three cronies sitting in an inn till one or two o'clock in the morning telling stories and "consuming" a gill of whisky and a bottle of twopenny ale. All the while the inn-keeper and his women folk were waiting to get to bed, as a drinking room was often a box-bed sleeping room.

The Back Kick.

Owing to the murder of James I. in the Blackfriars monastery of the city, the

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

capital of Scotland was moved from Perth to Edinburgh; through the burning of a political effigy, Perth lost (for the time being) a profitable industry. The 23 "small" Perth distilleries stopped operations. Several were removed to the Currylea farm area of Auchtergaven—but no whisky could be brought over the prescribed line except at full duty. From the south of Scotland a whisky began to be sold in Perth at as low as 1d. a gill! It was a very coarse spirit, and its recommendation was its cheapness. Two glassfuls made a person drunk! The people of Perth who had got accustomed to drink whisky of the best quality (as they prefer to do at the present day) did not take readily to the liquid-fire liquor. It was variously described as "kill the carter," "the hiccup," etc. One kind was said to lay any man "at his own door-step" in an hour!

Renewed Smuggling.

The alteration of "the Highland line," and the difficulty of getting good whisky at a reasonable price, as prices then were, caused smuggling to break out in Perth district like a conflagration. A bold and extensive contraband trade was carried on. The Excisemen, ever on the alert, seized extensive quantities from time to time. It is difficult, however, to uphold the Law when it is not respected. The smuggled whisky was much better in quality than the south country liquor on tap in Perth. Again, the smuggled whisky seized by the Excisemen was not

Whisky,
1d per Gill.

Law v.
Respect.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Got a
Permit.**

destroyed, but sold in Perth by public roup to the highest bidder! It was eagerly purchased by tavern-keepers! With it, they got a permit, and their purchases were entered to them as stock. The publicans contrived to keep up their stock of legitimately acquired whisky with constant additions of the smuggled article. They took special care to bring forward the smuggled article only in quantities in proportion to their stock.

The Solution.

Whilst Perth was in this unsatisfactory position (as were other parts of Scotland) a simple thing led to an entire change of opinion as to the Excise laws and ended smuggling. When some person brings out a patent which is simplicity itself, and the patent effects a transformation, hundreds of people are found saying, "After all, there's little in it; if I had only thought of such a thing"—but they didn't! Herein lies the spark of Genius, or Luck.

Excise Duties.

**In 1660—
2d, 3d, 4d.**

Excise duties on spirits were first imposed by the Parliament of the Commonwealth on 28th March, 1643. In 1660, the rate of duty was 2d, 3d., and 4d. per gallon according to the materials from which they were made. A Scottish exception was Forbes of Culloden (under an Act of 1690), who had the privilege of distilling free of duty—which was worth £7,000 a year—this privilege was later bought out. In the year 1745—so well



VALLEY OF TAY FROM KINNOULL HILL.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

known as that of the last Jacobite rising—the duty rose from 7½d. to 1s. 3d.; in 1780, it increased to 5s. 1½d. and 5 per cent.; in 1783, it was 5s. 1½d. and 15 per cent.; in 1811, it was 10s. 2½d.; in 1819, 11s. 8½d. The duty was raised to prevent smuggling; instead, smuggling increased the higher the duty rose! Previous to the war with Napoleon, when the 90th Regiment was raised on the North Inch by Lord Lynedoch, whisky could be bought for little over ½d. per gill! In an Annual it was stated that illicit distilling was so prevalent in Scotland (and Ireland) at one time that more than half of the spirits consumed were supplied by smugglers! This continued down to between 1840 and 1853. A Scotsman at this period was once asked—"Does everybody smuggle—even Free Kirk folk?" "Aye," came the answer, "even Free Kirk folk; only difference is that Free Kirk folk didna smuggle on Sundays, but Auld Kirk folk dae!"

In 1821.

In 1821, smuggling had reached an alarming height. A Government Commission was appointed to investigate the subject, and suggest a remedy! The Commission sat, and later recommended that the duty on spirits in Scotland (and Ireland) be reduced from 6s. 3d. to 2s. 4½d., and this was done in 1823. A miraculous change took place—the smugglers' trade began to go. The making of legitimate spirits rose in 1826 to 18,200,000 gallons; in 1820, the figures were only

Whisky,
½d per gill.

Reduced
6/3 to 2/4½.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Advanced,
72/6 per gal.**

9,600,000. For a quarter of a century in Scotland (round about 1825-1855), the duty was stereotyped at 3s. 8d. per gallon. Mr. Gladstone increased the duty to 10s. per gallon; during the South African war the duty was 11s.; Mr. Lloyd George raised it in 1909 to 14s. 9d.; and in 1920 it was £2 10s. per gallon. Following on the Great War (and at present) the duty on whisky is 72s. 6d. per proof gallon—of which at 30 under proof the Government receives 8s. 5½d. per bottle!

The Water of Life—Whisky!

Uisge-breathe (water of life), subsequently Usquabagh, are the original designations of whisky. The usquabagh of the 17th and 18th centuries was a blend of plain spirit, saffron, nutmeg, and other spice-flavouring matter and sugar. How is that for a cock-tail? There are three main varieties of whisky: Scotch, Irish, and Canadian-American. Scotch whisky or varieties:

(a) Pot-still, or malt whisky.

(b) Patent-still, or grain whisky.

**Malt
Whisky.**

The first is made from malted barley; the second is made from malted barley, rye, oats, and maize. There are four main varieties of Scotch malt whisky—Highland, Lowland, Campbeltown, and Islay. The largest group of distilleries is in the Speyside, or Glenlivet, district. Islay whiskies possess a fine peatty flavour; patent still, or grain whiskies, are lighter in flavour and body than pot-stills, rectification being carried further, and no peat used.

Among the Experts.

Controversy has arisen as to whether "patent-still" productions have a right to the name of "Scotch" whisky, or even whisky! Some experts contend that "pot-stills" should be merely dubbed "spirits." He of the weary foot may tell where and when methylated spirits best come in!

The character of Scotch whisky is much influenced by the manner in which it is matured: in plain oak cask, sherry cask, or re-fill.

Blending is an art, and an important one. Scotch whiskies are as a general rule "blended" prior to reaching the public. By "blending" is understood the mixing together of different kinds of whisky to form a harmonious and palatable combination. "Self," or single whiskies from one single distillery, do not now appeal to the public taste as they once did. By combining different makes of whisky, blenders have succeeded in producing an article the demand for which has increased enormously during the past half-century.

**That is the secret of the great
success of Scotch whisky.**

Whisky may be regarded as an abiding and commonly-used beverage in all English-speaking countries. The great expansion of the Scotch whisky trade of recent years is undoubtedly due in the main to the introduction of blending or "marrying" on scientific lines and per formula. The best blends are produced by blending vatted whiskies: 10 or 15

**Influence of
Maturing.**

**An Abiding
Beverage.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

O'er Ills of
Life
Victorious.

Perth, 100 !

Highland malts from different distilleries! The vat is allowed to mature before being blended with other types to form the final blend.

Philosophers and Poets.

Whisky has been praised by philosophers and sung by poets—it is a stimulant to the sick, and to the weary and down-cast; a palatable drink to the healthy; it cures headache, toothache, and stomachache; it is a social joy, and over all the ills of life victorious. Friends and physicians alike recommend the best brands and the various labels.

The latest wheeze is that water is water all the world over, and good, if taken in the right spirit!

Robert Burns has it—"Freedom and whisky gang thegither; tak' aff ye're dram!"

Perth.

Perth stands high in the trade as to being a wholesale and distributing whisky centre. Perth whisky firms have been established for over a hundred years, and there are well-nigh a hundred licence-holders in the city. Perth whisky is known the world-over as has been often declared—it is one of the city's industries. In the course of a year millions of gallons of whisky come into Perth, are blended, and pass out! For the size of the city and population, no city in the world has so many wholesale and big firms dealing in whisky—proprietary and otherwise—as Perth. A glance at the names shows this: Messrs. John Dewar and Sons, Ltd.; Messrs. A. Bell & Sons,

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Ltd.; Messrs Rutherford & Kay (Rollo); Messrs. J. & T. Currie and C. C. Stuart, Ltd.; Messrs. Matthew Gloag & Son; Messrs. R. B. Smith & Sons; Messrs. J. and D. Gowans (Donald); Messrs. A. Laing & Co. (Butters); Mr. J. D. McArthur; Mr. Alex. Thomson; Mr. Peter Thomson; Messrs. W. R. Robertson & Co.; Messrs. Thomson, Craik, and Co., Ltd., etc.

St. Swithin's Lane.

About 150 years ago, Messrs. Sandeman & Co., now port merchants, St. Swithin's Lane, London, were wine merchants in the Watergate of Perth, and two whisky firms after being in business in the city for a long period, ceased a few years ago, viz., Messrs. C. & J. McDonald, George Street and Castlegable, and the Perthshire Wine and Spirit Vaults (Greig), Watergate.

Up in Price and Up in Appreciation.

All Perth hotels, restaurants, and licencees stock Perth whiskies. When an article goes up in price it goes up in appreciation: not so long ago one could get a bottle of whisky for 2s. 6d., now it is 12s. 6d., and if you want your liquor to be of the liqueur quality, bouquet and flavour, it will cost you 15s. 6d. But the best of anything is always the best, and a little of a good thing goes a long way. And you feel that you have tasted Scotch whisky!

Aqua Pura and Patriotism.

We drink the Royal and loyal toasts in whisky!

**Notable
Names.**

**Price and
Apprecia-
tion.**

Time-
Keepers.

Donald & his Smuggled Drap

By James Stewart, Perth, Dunkeld, and Crieff.

About the year 1810, smugglers in bands or six or seven, mounted on sturdy horses, with a keg of whisky on each side of the saddle, would pass from Crieff about 10 p.m. on certain nights to Stirling. So punctual were they that persons doubtful of the correct time would ask, "Are the smugglers past?" so says P. R. Drummond in his "Perthshire in Bygone Days." This state of matters continued till 1824 when a troop of Scots Greys were sent to Crieff to assist the Excise. Before the smugglers were dispersed it is said a pitched "battle" was fought at Corriemuckloch, near Amulree. James Stewart celebrated this fight in a song, of which the following is an abridgement:—

Tune—"The Tinker's Wedding."

December on the first, I hear

A party o' our guide Scots Greys

Went up among the mountaineers

Some whisky from the rogues to seize.

They were equipped from top to toe

For any foe upon the spot;

Yet a' they wanted was to seize

Poor Donald wi' his smuggled drap.

When the action it was o'er,

A horseman lay upon the plain;

Says Sandy unto Donald—"Man!

We've killed ane o' the bearded men!"

But up he got, and aff he ran,

And straight to Amulree he flew;—

He left the rest to do their best,

As they had done at Waterloo.

Quo' Donald, when the fight was done—

"We'll took a dram, the best we hae."

"That's right," quo' Dugald, "but I'm shoore

They got a hurry doun the brae!"

Perhaps!

Three Notable Bissets

**Perth and Perthshire in Medicine,
Military Service, and Museums**

Families in their time
Play many parts.

As time passes many persons and their deeds if not "re-recorded" are apt to pass out of public notice. It is not good that this should be so. Round about a century ago Perth and Perthshire gave forth three men of the name of Bisset who were outstanding in their day, but of which the present generation may never have heard.

These were, according to chronological order of entry into the world:—Dr. Charles Bisset, physician and military engineer (1717-1791); Mr. James Bisset, artist, publisher, and writer of verse (1762-1832); and Sir John Bisset, K.C.B. (1777-1854).

The Surname.

The surname of Bisset, or Bissit, according to Robert Ferguson in his "surnames" of the Teutonic family, indicates Biso and Bis, whence probably Biss, Bissell, Bissit, Bisset, Bissett, perhaps Bish, an old German name; Bisa, old Norse; Biscop, old Saxon; Beza (1519-1605), the French theologian and Psalmist, who joined the Church of Calvin at Geneva in October, 1548, and became his successor and biographer; as to nomenclature, Bis, twice-baked-biscuit

**Benefits of
Record.**

**Bisset
Variants.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Public Rolls
100 Years
Ago.**

**Bisse and
Bizari.**

in food, disc in metal (Latin-French); place-names—Bizerta in Tunis, on the Mediterranean; Bay of Biscay, which the French call the Golfe de Gascogne.

1818.

The name Bisset, which is fairly common in Perth, is mentioned in public rolls in Perth district over a hundred years ago, viz., in the Perthshire Register for 1818—William Bisset of Mucklarie, Commissioner of Supply. In the Perth Directory for 1837, there are given the names of four Bissets, viz., Miss Bisset, 24 Marshall Place; Peter Bisset, shoemaker, 137 High Street; Robert Bisset, writer, Blackfriars Street; and William Bisset, weaver, Thimblerow. In 1852-53, there was Dr. William Bisset, 6 Main Street, Bridgend. A decade later, the number was about a dozen; in some Directories they number between twenty and thirty; in the current Perth Directory the number is twenty-three.

Variants of the Name.

There have been many distinguished men with variants of the name. A few may be noted:—Dr. Thomas Bisse (d. 1731), the famous English divine, and Chancellor of Hereford. Peter Bissat, or Bissart (d. 1568), was Professor in the University of Bologna, Italy, and a native of Fife. Pietro Bizari (1530-1586), Italian historian and poet, was long resident in England, and at Genoa, Antwerp, Venice, etc., one of his books being dedicated to Queen Elizabeth.

Bassett—an English form of the name.

1300.

Baldred Bissait, or Bisset (circa 1303), was a native of Stirling, and rector of Kinghorn in the Diocese of St. Andrews. Between the years 1291 and 1301, the question arose between Pope Boniface VIII., Edward I. of England, and the Scots as to the independence of Scotland; Bissait was one of the Scottish Commissioners to the Pope, and he it was who first made mention as to Scota, daughter of Pharoah, King of Egypt, and the Coronation Stone of Scone.

**A Scotsman
and the
Pope.**

"The Fair Maid of Perth."

A French form of the surname of Bisset is that of Bizet. One example is exceptionally interesting:—Georges Bizet (properly Alexandre Cesar Leopold), was born Paris, 25th Oct., 1838, and died Bougival, near Paris, 3rd June, 1875. This distinguished French music composer was a pupil of the Conservatoire from 1849 to 1857. His first operatic production was "La Pretresse" (1854).

In the year 1857, Bizet won first prize for an opera in Rome—"Le Docteur Miracle." Bizet was not too successful with some of his succeeding operas, which included "La Jolie Fille de Perth" ("Fair Maid of Perth"), which was first given at the Theatre Lyrique, Paris, on 26th December, 1867.

**Bizet and
Opera.**

Success.

It was only after the musical and dramatic world had been captured by Bizet's "Carmen" (1875) that the com-

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Success— and Death.

poser came into his own. "La Jolie Fille de Perth" and "Les Pecheurs de perles" benefitted. Part of the ballad music in "La Jolie Fille de Perth" was used in "Carmen," and is now permanently associated with the great Spanish gipsy opera. Bizet wrote the overture, "La Chasse de'Ossian," and many songs including "Les Adieux de l'hotesse Arabe." He was also an outstanding pianist. Bizet died three months after the production of "Carmen."

DR. CHARLES BISSET,

Physician and Military Engineer.

At Glenalbert, to the north of Dunkeld, was born in 1717, one who, in the course of his lifetime, occupied two usually far-apart professions, viz., prescribing for the sick and reporting as to a military siege! Charles Bisset studied medicine at Edinburgh University, his father being a man of repute in Latin and Scots Law. In 1740, Dr. Bisset was appointed second surgeon of the Military Hospital, Jamaica. Later service was under Admiral Vernon, some say as a naval surgeon, others as a surgeon of a marine regiment subsequently disbanded. After being five years in the West Indies, he returned home in ill-health in 1745.

Naval Surgeon.

42nd Royal Highlanders.

Bisset passed (for the time being) from medical to military life in being appointed an Ensign in the 42nd Royal Highlanders. The Gallant Forty-two was at

this time commanded by Lord John Murray. Bisset served for five years with the Royal Highlanders, which period included the unsuccessful descent on the French coast near L'Orient, a winter at Limerick, and the moving to the Low Countries and engagement at Sandberg, near Halst, in Dutch Flanders.

Bergen-op-Zoom.

A military drawing of this affair, and another of the defences of Bergen-op-Zoom in Holland (drawn by him), having been submitted by Lord John Murray to the Duke of Cumberland, Dr. Bisset was ordered to the latter fortress to prepare reports of the progress of the siege. Strongly fortified until 1767, Bergen-op-Zoom was repeatedly besieged by Spaniards, French, and British between 1581 and 1814.

Duke of Cumberland.

The Duke of Cumberland recommended Bisset for the post of Engineer-Extraordinary in the British Brigade of Engineers on account of the skilful manner in which he did the work given him. The recommendation was followed by "appointment," and Bisset served in this capacity with ability till Peace was concluded.

Disbandment.

At the end of a war a number of regiments, or companies, are disbanded. The Engineer Brigade was dissolved in 1748 when the war ceased. Lord John Murray's companies of the Royal High-

**Lord John
Murray.**

**Dissolved
in 1748.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Dr Bisset in
75th Year.**

landers were also reduced, and as a Lieutenant of one of these, and on half-pay, Bisset's name was placed, and continued till his death in 1791.

Dr. Bisset, founding on his experiences, published books on fortresses, and later on medical subjects, such as scurvy, weather and diseases, fevers, etc.

In Private Practice.

At Skelton, near Cleveland, Yorkshire, Dr. Bisset took up private medical practice, amassed wealth, and died at Knayton, near Thirsk, on 14th June, 1791, in his 75th year. Academic honours came to him in the later years of his life—the University of St. Andrews conferring on him in 1766, the degree of doctor of medicine.

Bisset published "Medical Essays and Observations" (1766), which was translated into German and Italian. Dr. Bisset presented to Leeds Infirmary a MS. "Medical Constitution of Great Britain" (700 pages), now lost; to the London Medical Society, MS. notes on physic; and he had an interesting "correspondence" with the famous Lettsom.

**Lived in
England**

JAMES BISSET,

**Artist, and Writer and Publisher of
Verse.**

Possibly the least known of the three Bissets being noticed is one who passed most of his life in Birmingham and Leamington, viz., James Bisset, artist, and writer and publisher of verse. The place and date of his birth is given (as regards

the latter) in the National Dictionary of Biography as Perth, 1762. He died on 17th August, 1832, at Leamington, was buried there, and a monument erected by friends to his memory. Bisset received his early education at a ma'm's school in Perth; the fee for himself and his sister being 1d. per week, with a peat for the fire every Monday morning during winter! The perusal of several copies of the "Gentleman's Magazine" gave him his first love for literature. General Elliot, while on a visit to Perth, gave him a dollar, and this he spent on old books and prints from a bookstall.

**Love for
Literature.**

An Indulgent Uncle.

The "Gentleman's Magazine" was continued to be purchased from pocket money provided by an indulgent uncle; he was then in his ninth and following years. At the age of fifteen years he became an artist's apprentice in Birmingham. In the Birmingham Directory of 1785, his name appears as miniature painter, Newmarket, and in that of 1797 as fancy painter, New Street. He established a "museum" in the latter premises for the keeping and sale of curiosities.

Bisset advanced a step higher and became a medal maker. He was permitted to use the designation "Medallist to His Majesty." On the title-page of one of his books he advertised medallions of Their Majesties, of several statesmen, and a medal commemorating the victory and death of Nelson of Trafalgar.

**Medallist
to H.M.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Volumes of
Verse.

Humorous Verse.

Bisset's literary ability lay in composing humorous and high falutin' verse on the topics of the day. These hit the popular fancy, and sold well. They also brought prospective buyers about his "museum" and collection of medals. His literary published efforts included "The Orphan Boy," "Flights of Fancy," "Theatrum Oceani," etc. (all in verse), and "The Patriotic Clarion" (1803), as to Britain's threatened invasion by Napoleon—the "Clarion" dedicated to the then Duke of York. Bisset's presentation of this work with inscription to George III. is in the British Museum. Bisset's most unique and notable work is "Poetic Survey Round Birmingham," giving a description of the manufactures and curiosities of the town, with a directory of the names and professions of the people. He also published a dramatic volume on Young Roscius.

Leamington.

Over
100,000
Copies.

In 1813, Bisset removed to Leamington, where he had opened a "museum," picture gallery, and newsroom the previous year. "A Picturesque Guide to Leamington" and other volumes he published between 1814 and 1829. His verses also appeared in the "Gentleman's Magazine." He boasted that he had sold in Birmingham and Leamington over 100,000 copies of his different productions, some of them reaching 15th and 16th editions. Alike in Birmingham and Leamington, Bisset was appreciated for his literary gifts, amiability, eccentric-

cities, and sociality. In Birmingham he belonged to the Minerva Club of 12 members, named "The Apostles," who met in the Leicester Arms and discussed political subjects—the beginning of political gatherings for which Birmingham is now so famous. A picture of the members was painted by Eckstein, to which Bisset felt heir as the oldest member. Bisset's collection of paintings, some by himself, were sold after his death.

**Painted by
Eckstein.**

**SIR JOHN BISSET, K.C.B.,
Commissary-General of the Forces.**

Died at No. 24 Marshall Place, Perth,
on the 3rd inst., Commissary-General Sir
John Bisset of Riechip, K.C.B., K.C.H.,
aged 76 years.

So runs an obituary announcement in the "Perthshire Courier" of 6th April, 1854. In an adjoining column is a notice of Sir John Bisset's passing, and stating that for many years past he had resided in the city. Sir John held the office of Commissary of the Forces under the Duke of Wellington during the whole of the Peninsular war. On many occasions the Duke bore testimony to Sir John's uprightness and valuable services. He had a pension of £500 a year, which at his death reverted to the Crown.

**Pension of
£500 a-year.**

Sir John Bisset was created a Knight Bachelor and Commander of the Guelphic Order on its revival (1850) by William IV., and had the additional honour of K.C.B. conferred on him two years before his death.

**Important
Posts.**

Born in 1777.

Born it is believed in Perth in 1777, Bisset served in the Commissariat at home from 1795 to 1800; was in Germany from May, 1800, to June, 1802; at home again from 1802 to 1806; in South America in 1806-7, and at the Scheldt in 1809. He was appointed Commissary-General in Spain in 1811, and as already indicated had charge of the Commissariate of the Duke of Wellington's Army during most of the important periods of the Peninsular war, before and after the Battle of Salamanca. He published (1846) a small work entitled "Memoranda Regarding the Duties of the Commissariat on Field Service Abroad." Sir John Bisset's life linked together the military activities from 1777 to 1854.

Greyfriars' Burying-Ground.

In Greyfriars' Burying-Ground of Perth, a little to the left of the entrance gate, is a tombstone inscribed:—

**Sir John's
Tombstone.**

This Stone is Erected by Sir John Bisset in Memory of his Father, Mother, and Three Sisters who are Interred here. Also, in Memory of the above Commissary-General Sir John Bisset, K.C.B. and K.C.H., who Died 3rd April, 1854, aged 76 years. Also, in Memory of Elizabeth Bisset, last surviving sister of Sir John Bisset, who Died 8th March, 1857, aged 73 years. (No. 172; Sec. 7.)

In the Registrar of Perth's certificates of interment papers, Miss Elizabeth Bisset is given as daughter of Patrick Bisset, coppersmith, and Jane Keay.

The Bisset here mentioned may have

Charles Rattray

Tobacco Blender

HIGH STREET

PERTH



THERE is one section of the Tobacco Trade in which Scotland excels, that is in the blending of Tobacco mixtures.

Scotch Blended Tobaccos are sought after all over England and abroad.

We ask you to come and see the great care given to the preparation of our Tobacco blends.

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Tobacco Blender, High Street, Perth



Sailor Boy

The Five Figures
reproduced are all
hand carved, and are
beautiful examples
of the art of the
craftsmen of old



6 ft. Highlander



Dwarf Highlander

From the
"Rattray" Collection
Perth



Highlander
In Natural Wood

We invite you to Call
and see them



42nd Highlander
(Castle Gable Figure)

been a Bisset of Mucklerie and his wife
a Keay of Snaigow.

Riechip.

The estate of Riechip is situated equi-
distant about six miles from Dunkeld
and Blairgowrie. Access to it is got by
leaving the main road at Butterstone,
and winding upwards through Riechip
Den (or gorge), where sub-alpine plants
and adders are found. There is a nice
mansion-house, and some shooting over
moorland, and pasture ground. The
writer is indebted to Mr. Robert Inglis,
Factor on the Atholl Estates, Blair
Atholl, for the following interesting
notes on the changes of proprietary in
the property within the past two hun-
dred years.

1738.

The curtain lifts in the first half of
the eighteenth century. In the year 1738,
the estate of Riechip was sold by James,
second Duke of Atholl, to Alexander
Stewart of Strathgarry—the adjoining
and slightly higher estate of Easter
Riemore being sold in 1844 by the
Atholl trustees to Sir John Bisset. In
1864, John, seventh Duke of Atholl,
bought back both Riechip and Easter
Riemore from Mr. Arthur Booth.
Evidently between 1854 (when Sir John
Bisset died) and 1864, the estate had
been, for a time, at least, in the pos-
session of Mr. Booth. Whether he
acquired it from Sir John Bisset's trus-
tees or from a proprietor before him and
between him and Sir John has not

Riechip
Den.

1854 and
1864.

**Craig
Benachally.**

**View His
Own Lands!**

been ascertained. Mr. James Morison, accountant, Blackfriars Street, Perth, is able to add another interesting link—his grandfather was tenant of Riechip for one year (1859-60), and an uncle, Mr. Thomas Archer, in 1862 (probably for a short time).

Benachally.

On Craig Benachally, near Loch Benachally, the source of Blairgowrie's water supply, is a square stone cairn some eight feet at the base and sixteen feet high, with a collar near the top, which is quite a landmark in the Higher Stormont. To the east are the ruins of Glasclune Castle, further east is Newton Castle, in the hollow Ardblair Castle, and southwards the Tower of Lethendy, founded in 1570. The local story is to the effect that the interesting stone cairn or monument was erected by Sir John Bisset's orders while he was proprietor of Reichip. (The place-name is spelled alternatively Riechip and Reichip.) He desired that from the Calton Hill, Edinburgh, near which his Commissary's Office was, he might be able to locate Craig Benachally and view his own lands from Edinburgh! Mr. Chas. McLaren, Cally Lodge, Dunkeld, used to tell this story. Others contemporary with him (and later) tell the same story, slightly varied.

Firth of Forth.

Thus: that Sir John Bisset in crossing the Firth of Forth one day from Granton to Burntisland "thought" he saw

the top of Benachally in the far distance, and a cairn was built of stone and lime as a landmark; it might be visible from Perth where Sir John passed the winter months and resided at Riechip for the summer months. Sir John Bisset was inclined to be eccentric and his "beliefs" may, or may not, have been well founded.

A Story of the Stormont.

A story of the Stormont, rather than of Sir John himself, is to the effect that when the cairn was built the workmen came upon the skeleton of a soldier! Rumour had it that the soldier was on his way North with a bag of money to pay an Army further on when he was robbed and murdered in the vicinity. His body was buried where it was found years afterwards, and his charger was got wandering in the Den of Riechip! The man who committed the crime (after burying the body) hid the bag of money in a juniper bush. Another individual saw the crime committed, allowed the person to go away, and then went to the place, got the money, and made off with it. The assassin got nothing out of the crime he had committed! The remains of the soldier were taken to Clunie Churchyard and buried there; report said that the skull was of enormous size, indicating a man of big stature.

Mr. Geo. McRitchie.

Mr. Geo. McRitchie at present farms the arable land of Riechip; he does more, he takes a keen interest in present and

**Skeleton of
a Soldier!**

**Clunie
Churchyard.**

After
Waterloo.

past day events of the Stormont. This is in keeping with such notable relatives as the late Mr. David McRitchie, F.S.A. (Scot.), of Edinburgh, and the Rev. Mr. McRitchie, a former minister of Clunie Parish Church. Mr. Geo. McRitchie's "belief" is that Sir John Bisset was one of the family of Bisset's who were landed proprietors in the Stormont in 1700-1800. Sir John Bisset acquired Riechip after Waterloo. At that time it was merely rough ground, with a patch of cultivated land here and there. He trenched it, dyked it into fields of 12 to 15 acres, built the present Riechip House and farm steading, planted woods, the last of which were cut down this year. The expenditure must have run into thousands of £s. although the workers had only 9s. per week. It is said that the cairn at Benachally was built "owing to an argument" as to which was Sir John's hill as seen from a long distance!

A Brother (?)

Gone to
England.

A story is to the effect that Sir John Bisset had a brother, named James, who lived at Dunkeld. This Bisset was a great friend of Robert Burns, and the poet is said to have stayed with him one night at Dunkeld while on his visit north. At James Bisset's death an old housekeeper got a painting of Burns, and after her death it passed into one or two hands. It is at present possessed by a person in England. James Bisset is said to be buried in Dunkeld Cathedral Churchyard.

Perthshire Bissets in the Ministry.

An interesting side-line on the subject is the number of Perthshire Bissets who have been in the ministry, and the Bissets descended from them. The go-back is a big one, but it can be done.

Thus; in 1696, Mr. James B. Bisset, Blair Atholl, was clerk of the Regality Court of Atholl. In that year he had a son born, Robert, who was educated (and took his M.A.) at St. Andrews in 1718; was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Dunkeld on 14th October, 1719; was presented by David Spalding of Ashintully and ordained at Kirk-michael in Strathardle, 11th May, 1720, and called 22nd July, 1724, by the Presbytery jure devoluto 30th December, 1725; translated and admitted Blair Atholl, 15th March, 1726; and died 17th February, 1739. He married Elizabeth Crichton, who died 6th April, 1780. Issue—Thomas, minister of Logierait; Henry, died at sea; and Margaret, Isobel, Elizabeth, James, and Robert.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Bisset.

We now pass to the Rev. Dr. Thomas Bisset, of Logierait, just mentioned. He was the eldest son of Rev. Robert Bisset, of Blair Atholl; was educated at St. Andrews and took his M.A. in 1750. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Dunkeld on 5th March, 1754, and ordained to Logierait on 20th February, 1755. In 1787, St. Andrews University conferred on him the honorary title of D.D. He died on 3rd October, 1800. He was

**St Andrews
M.A.**

**Another
St Andrews
M.A.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Eleven Children.

father of a remarkable family as to numbers; he married (1) 2nd April, 1758, Ann (died 8th June, 1759), daughter of Rev. Adam Ferguson, Moulin, and had issue: Robert Bisset, LL.D. (born 1759, and died 1805), author of "Life of Edmund Burke." Dr. Thomas Bisset married (2) 21st April, 1767, Mary (died 18th April, 1785), fourth daughter of Principal Thos. Tullidolph, St. Andrews, and had issue eleven children—five sons and six daughters. Rev. Dr. Thomas Bisset translated Mylne's "History of the Bishops of Dunkeld," wrote the Logierait part of Sir John Sinclair's "Statistical Account of Scotland," published "Sermons," etc. It is said some Perth Bissets were originally of Dunkeld.

The Stormont Bissets.

Commerce and Agriculture

An article on the Bissets in the Stormont appeared in the "Weekly Scotsman" over a year ago. The family were indicated as being Lairds of Balcairn and other places near Blairgowrie; others were tenants of lands and farmers in the once populous Forest of Clunie in the Stormont, while others engaged in commerce in Blairgowrie, possibly the best-known of the name at the present day being Bissets' Agricultural Implement Works. There were a number of families of the name of Bisset in the Stormont sixty or seventy years ago, who were understood to be of the same family of Bisset but far distant in relationship. In such a quest as the present, one regrets that Mr. Thos. Keir,

of Butterstone, passed away a few years ago, if not too full of years, at least full of information on such subjects.

Mucklarie and Snaigow.

As previously indicated there was in Mucklarie in 1818 a family of the name of Bisset—probably they were of the Balcairn Bissets or the Riechip Bissets. The name Mucklarie is somewhat intriguing. At first glance one might be pardoned for imagining that here was a compound word—Muckle Ri—signifying a big extent of Royal ground, if so, one would require to go back to the time of King Kenneth MacAlpine and find out what were the extent of the Royal domains in the Stormont in his day. The information regarding Mucklarie is that in 1818 it was a small tract of moorland which in time became part of Snaigow. The family of Keay owned Snaigow about a hundred years ago—one member of the family was Mr. Keay, advocate, Edinburgh. At least on one occasion Sir Walter Scott spent a week-end with his brother-advocate at Snaigow. To the south-east and nearer there existed at one time a small wood (it may be there yet) called Baxter's strip, said to have been planted by a Delvine land-steward of that name. Mr. W. H. Cox, the present proprietor of Snaigow and Clunie Castle, has come across mention of the Bissets in Mucklarie in old minute books of the Caputh heritors. The Snaigow-Mucklarie land connection is interesting—Sir John Bisset's mother is given as

**Royal
Ground.**

**Mr W. H.
Cox.**

Adding
Mucklarie.

1794 to
1802.

Jane Keay. The Atholl estates were superiors of Mucklarie up to the recent redemption of superiorities and feuduties.

Dungarthill.

Mr. W. H. Cox of Snaigow has looked through the minute book of the Heritors of Caputh Parish from 1794 to 1823. Mr. Keay of Snaigow bought Dungarthill from the Duke of Atholl in 1817, and it is probable that he bought Mucklarie before (or after) this date, as by adding Mucklarie to Snaigow he would extend nearly to the original Dungarthill march. The part between these estates was called Gairdrum, and owned by Drummonds, and until lately Mr. Cox paid a yearly superiority (now capitalised) to Admiral Drummond.

References to the Name of Bisset.

In the minute book of the Heritors of Caputh Parish from 1794 to 1823 are the undernoted references to those of the name of Bisset:—

Heritors' Meetings
of date.

- 30th Aug., 1794—Isaac Cochrane for James Bisset, portioner, Nether Kincairney; also mentioned, Wm. Cochran, Miln of Mucklerie.
- 19th Dec., 1799—Wm. Bisset, portioner, half Meikle Firdle. James Bisset, portioner, Nether Kincairney.
- 2nd May, 1800—Peter Hall for Wm. Bisset of Mucklyrie.
- 8th Oct., 1801—Wm. Bisset of half Mickle Fardle.
- 7th April, 1802—Wm. Bisset, portioner of half Mickle Fardle.
- 3rd Aug., 1802—Wm. Bisset, portioner of half Mickle Fardle. Peter Hall for Mr. Bisset of Mucklyrie.

"Native" Surnames.

Several surnames seem quite "native" to the Stormont, for instance, McLaren, Robertson, Johnstone, Baxter, Keay, Douglas, Smith, Spalding, Scott, Stirton, Stewart, Keillor, etc.

Caputh.

"Fasti Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ" lifts the curtain a bit on the subject. The Bishop of Dunkeld about 1500 disjoined Caputh from Little Dunkeld, and in turn there was united to Caputh (in the 16th century) a small parish named Logie-Mached or Madaich. James Bisset of Muiklawrie, baptised 3rd March, 1723, was a son of (Rev.) John Bisset of Dunganthel, who was licensed by the Presbytery of Perth, 22nd February, 1749, was presented by George III. to Caputh in April and ordained in August, 1753, and died on 9th March, 1783. He married Helen Laurie, and had issue six daughter and three sons. William (born 11th July, 1769) inherited Muiklarie, and sold it, it is supposed, after 1818.

Some Old-Time Bissets.

In Greyfriars Burying-Ground of Perth one comes across a number of tombstones with the family name of Bisset. These have been very well collated by Mr. W. Sievwright in his "Greyfriars Burying-Ground, Perth." The oldest and most unique is given as follows:—

Thomas Bissit, 1635.

Heir Lyes Ane Honest Man Thomas Bissit
Bvrges And Deacon Of The Cordonars Of
Perth Who Departit The 17. of November 1635.
The first mention of a Deacon of the

**Mached-
Lawrie.**

**"Greyfriars,
Perth."**

Perth
Bissets.

"Ian
Maclaren."

Shoemakers Incorporation of Perth (the Cordonars or Cordwainers) according to the craft minute-books is of the year 1541. In 1600, James Bisset was convener, and in 1620, Thomas Bisset was convener. In 1630, the number of craftsmen is given as 29.

A Peculiarity.

A peculiarity of the earlier entries as to Greyfriars Burying-Ground tomb stones is the spelling of the surname as Bissit. In 1747, departed Cirsten Biset. In 1775, departed Thomas Bissit, flesher and burgess. In 1777, departed Alexander Bisset, barbar and wigmaker, burgess. A stone erected in 1787, records the passing of Janet Bissit. Allison Bissit died in 1828. There were two members of the medical profession in Perth before the present generation, viz., Dr. William Bisset, who died in 1821, and William Bisset, chemist and druggist, Perth and Dundee, who died in 1853. About this time quite a number of retired Indian military and active Inland Revenue officers resided in Perth—these included Mr. Watson, I.R., father of the Rev. Dr. John Watson ("Ian Maclaren"), author of the world-known "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush," etc.—the Watsons lived at the east end of Marshall Place; Mr. Walter Miller, Comptroller of Customs, Perth, was earlier, and died 13th September, 1816, aged 76 years; Mr. John Miller, Collector, I.R., 1846-49, who died in Perth in 1851, and whose brother-in-law, Mr. John Allan, adopted Edgar Allan Poe

(1809-49), the American poet, educated him, and befriended him to a point past endurance.

Of Anglo-Norman Origin.

One of the most informative bits of history as to the Bisset family was contributed recently to the "Weekly Scotsman" by Mr. James Seton Anderson, holding that Bisset, Byset, or Bissert was originally an Anglo-Norman name, belonging to a family which came into Scotland about the reign of William the First, and settled in two branches, the one in the province of Moray, and the other in Berwickshire. After Malcolm IV. had subdued, in 1160, the turbulent and rebellious inhabitants of Moray—and transported to Galloway all who had taken up arms against him (which included the greater portion of the population)—he bestowed their lands upon strangers, and among the new settlers, besides the Earls of Fife and Strathearn, and other powerful families, were the once potent Comyns and Bisset Astiarii, who obtained large estates in the province, especially in that part which now forms a portion of Inverness-shire.

Southwards.

In the reign of Alexander II., one Walter Bisset was a witness in a charter by that King to the Abbacy of Paisley; and also with William Bisset was witness in another charter of the same monarch to the Abbacy of Dunfermline. By the chartulary of Melrose, Walter Bisset in the year 1233 married a daughter of

**Byset, or
Bissert.**

**Abbacy of
Paisley.**

Roland, Lord of Galloway. These parties appear to be of the branch of the Bissets established in Berwickshire. The large territories of the Bissets in the north of Scotland passed into the possessions of the Fraser-Lovats.

Founded a Priory.

Now-Beaulieu.

—John de Bisset, in 1220-30, founded a priory of the order of Vallis Caulium, or Val des Chaux, in Ross-shire, which from the beauty of its situation he called Beaulieu, now Beaulieu, and which gave name to the small river which flows past. He also built the Tower of Lovat, and died in 1258, leaving three daughters, the eldest of whom married David de Graham (after his father-in-law's death, of Lovat). The heiress of the marriage carried the Lovat property (according to A. G. S. D. of the "Weekly Scotsman") into the Fraser family. In 1245, Sir John Bisset of Lovat was imprisoned in the Castle of Inverness for the imputed crimes of connection with the murder of the Earl of Athol, and of fealtyships to the Lord of the Isles. He died without heirs of his own body, leaving his estate to his three daughters—the eldest of whom married David Grahame, thereafter designed of Lovat (as previously noted). The second daughter became the wife of Sir William Fenton of Beaufort, and the third the wife of Sir Andrew de Bosco. Peter Bisset, Professor of Canon Law in the University of Bologna, in Italy, is said to have been a descendant of Thomas Bisset, who was Earl of Fife in the reign of David II.

Bisset-Fraser

“The Fair Maid of Perth”

**Sir Walter Scott's Gift to
Scottish Fiction and Drama**

A FIRST NIGHT IN PERTH.

Sir Walter Scott in the year 1828 wrote “The Fair Maid of Perth,” founded on traditional history and information supplied by Mr. Morison, Postmaster of Perth, and the leading local antiquary of his day. In doing so, Sir Walter gave a gift to Perth much appreciated, and lasting for all time.

**Morison,
Postmaster.**

St. Valentine.

The sub-title is “The Eve of St. Valentine.” St. Valentine's Day is 14th February. The naming of saints was instituted in the 12th century. The Bishop of Rome took the matter in hand. St. Valentine suffered martyrdom at Rome under Claudius.

Birds and Humans.

St. Valentine is said to have observed that birds take a mate early each spring, and keep to that mate for the year. The idea spread to humans, and a maid took or named a young man as her champion, or vice versa, to protect and honour her for a year! In the days when young men were not fickle, he was her defender for a year; if a maid, she honoured the young man, and his name, for a like period—they were Valentines! For the happy

For a Year

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

thought, and its good results, Valentine was made a saint!

The Surname.

It is ever an honour to be named after a saint. It will surprise many not so honoured to be informed that according to Perth Directory, there are no fewer than fourteen entries of the name in the current issue. Among whom are:— Sheriff G. D. Valentine, Dean of Guild G. P. Valentine, clothier, High Street; Valentine Motors, Ltd., King Edward Street; Valentine & Sons, cutlers, High Street; Alfred Valentine, motor agent, Feu Terrace; David Valentine, cutler, King Street; David Valentine, cutler, Knowlea Terrace; Frank D. Valentine, motor engineer, Craigie; Geo. Valentine, jun., hardware merchant, High Street; James Valentine, motor agent, Wilson Street; Kenneth Valentine, motor agent, Kinfauns Crescent; James Valentine, St Catherine's Road; John C. Valentine, Atholl Street; and Thos. Valentine, High Street.

"The Fair Maid's House."

It is important to mention that "The Fair Maid's House" in Curfew Row, Perth (as typified by Sir Walter Scott) is still in existence. A niche in the south-western front is credited with having once contained a small statue of St. Bartholomew, or a Curfew Bell. The house was "restored" many years ago, thanks to the antiquarian interest of Mr. Japp, solicitor, Alyth, and afterwards

**Many
Valentines.**

Curfew Bell!

sold by him to Perth Town Council, who are still proprietors. No place in the city is more suggestive of old-time Perth and the Glover and other burgesses than "The Fair Maid's House." On the south-east wall is inscribed the couplet from Gray's Elegy:—

"The Curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea."

The "House" is, and has been for a time, an "antique" shop, tenanted and ably managed by Mr. and Mrs. Scott, who have ever on sale a large quantity of curios, etc. Mr. Scott has also a gift for engineering inventions, which he is pleased to show to all interested in such.

A Scottish Romance.

In especially happy manner, Sir Walter Scott wove a Scottish romance round the old "love-token" tradition, and named it "The Fair Maid of Perth." At this time Sir Walter Scott was at the height of his popularity as a novelist, and the Perth story equals if it does not excel such Scottish productions as "Waverley," "Jeannie Deans," "Rob Roy," "Gilderoy," etc.

Perth Theatre Royal.

At the time of the production of the novel, Mr. Corbet Ryder, and later Mr. C. Bass, were the lessees of Perth Theatre Royal (corner of Atholl Street and Kinnoull Street, and still standing—for many years Messrs. John Jamieson and Co.'s gent.'s clothing factory, and now Messrs. Farquhar & Don's book-binding premises and Mr. James Buchan's billiards saloon).

Gray's Elegy.

**Ryder and
Bass.**

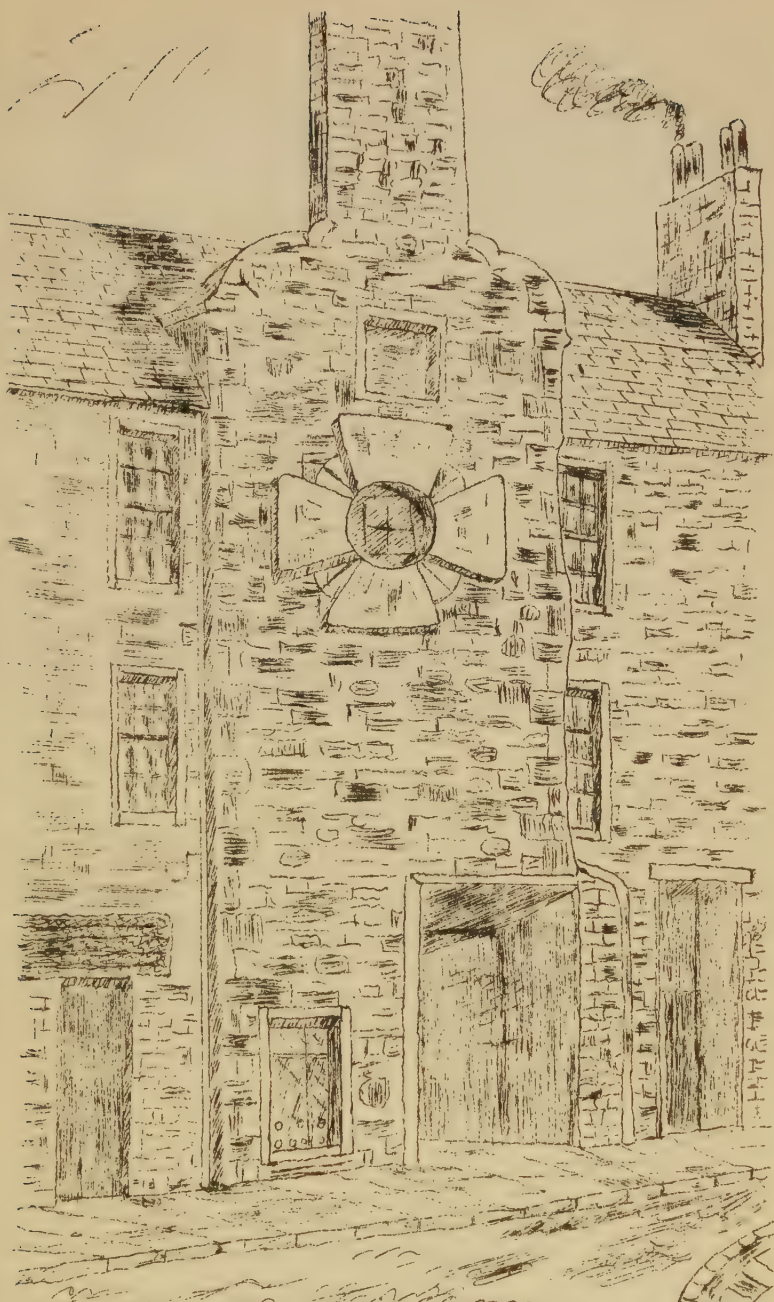
PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Great Successes.

Perth's Big Fit Up.

Booking.

The earliest mention that we have of a Theatre booking-office in Perth is that of Mr. Morison, at the Post-Office, George Street, Perth. This was the same Mr. Morison who supplied Sir Walter Scott with so much information as to the history of Perth incorporated in "The Fair Maid," so that it was appropriate that he should be "booking-agent" in the great success which that play had in its production in Perth, and also in regard to "Rob Roy." Mr. Morison was succeeded in the Post-Office at Perth at the top of George Street (still standing, but now used as the law offices of Messrs. J. & J. W. Lyall-Bowie, and Mr. J. C. Cameron, and Mr. J. Stirling Jarvie, architect), by Mr. Chas. Graham Sidey, and who was Lord Provost of the city when Queen Victoria and Prince Albert paid their first visit to Perth in 1842. Messrs. Paterson, Sons, and Co., pianoforte and music-sellers, for many years of George Street, and now of No. 38 South Methven Street, were the recognised Perth theatrical booking-office for a long number of years. Perth Theatre Royal of Atholl Street passed away, to be succeeded by the "big fit up" of Perth City Hall, later the beautiful Opera House in Tay Street, and in turn Perth Theatre in High Street (Mr. J. H. Savile, Mrs. Savile, and Miss Savile). Messrs. Paterson, Sons, and Co., are the booking agents for Perth Pavilion, South Inch, recently erected by Mr. James Currie, and at pre-



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PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

sent occupied by Mr. Herbert Mansfield and his Repertory Company, which has supplied a felt want.

Quick Work.

On 14th May, 1828, Sir Walter Scott's novel, "The Fair Maid of Perth," was published in London. The novel was issued in London on 14th May, 1828, and dramatised by H. Milner and produced at Royal Coburg Theatre on 23rd June—within six weeks of its production as a novel! It is to the credit of Perth of these days that not only was "The Fair Maid of Perth" dramatised and first produced in Scotland in Perth, but Perth had a similar honour as regards "Rob Roy."

23rd September, 1828.

"The Fair Maid of Perth," as dramatised by Mr. Bass, the lessee of the Theatre, was produced for the first time in the Theatre Royal, Perth, on Tuesday, 23rd September, 1828. The local interest in the piece attracted an overflowing audience, and none went away disappointed. Bass evinced taste and judgment in the preservation of the most striking incidents and the dialogue of the original novel. The scenery and the dresses were new.

Representation.

As to representation: Hal o' the Wynd, rather an obscure personage in book-form, although not slack to fight either for "his ain hand" or to avenge the wrongs of others, was made by Mr.

London,
May 14,
1828.

Perth,
Sept. 23,
1828.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Morris Dancers.

Bass a doughty fight-loving and blustering armourer. Conacher, the young Highland chieftain, under the guise of the glover's apprentice, was well acted.

Oliver Proudfoot.

Oliver Proudfoot, as one of the revellers on the night of Shrove Tuesday, afforded much amusement—poor Oliver to meet such a death. He appeared in the identical dress (lent for the occasion) of one of the Morris Dancers who danced on a raft on the River Tay before Charles I. when that monarch visited Perth in 1633. This ancient relic belongs to the regalia of the Glovers' Incorporation of Perth, and is still in their possession, and was shown along with the Glover Incorporation "Green Cloth" (1628) at the ter-centenary dinner in the Royal George Hotel on 6th October, 1928. In the play Catharine Glover was ideally portrayed, as was the Glee Maiden, and her song, "Ah, poor Louise," and a like remark falls to be made as to the many other parts.

A Success!

Scottish Drama.

Hearty applause again and again greeted the efforts of the various actors and actresses of Mr. Bass' stock company, which included Mr. and Mrs. C. Bass. A prologue, written for the occasion, was well received. As the curtain fell amid enthusiastic acclamations it was seen that "The Fair Maid of Perth" had come to stay in Scottish drama, and it was again and again given in Perth

and other places in Scotland with great success. It run for five nights on its first production in Perth, was withdrawn to allow of other "billed" productions to appear, was put on again within a few days, and run other four nights—nine nights in all in Perth for a first production! So keen was "young Perth" to hear (and see) the performance the first night that a boy got in between the slates and plaster roof of the Theatre and put his foot through the latter.

**"Young
Perth."**

The Trades Incorporations.

The Trades Incorporations of Perth attended on some of the nights, and one can well imagine the proud evening it must have been for the Glovers to see the worthy Simon and his fair daughter, Catharine, delineated on the stage. The pity is, 'tis true, that Sir Walter Scott's dramas have for the present gone out of fashion—they will come again!

Selections.

What follows is given in the hope that interest will revive in "The Fair Maid," alike as a novel and a play:—

THE EVE OF ST. VALENTINE.

The Fair Maid of Perth laid aside the splendid hawking-glove which she had been embroidering for Lady Drummond, and putting on her holy-day kirtle, prepared to attend her father to the Blackfriars Monastery, which was adjacent to Curfew Row, in which they lived. On their passage, Simon Glover,

**Lady
Drummond.**

**A Flanders
Mantilla.**

an ancient and esteemed burgess of Perth, somewhat stricken in years, and increased in substance, received from young and old the homage due to his velvet jerkin and his gold chain. The well known beauty of Catharine, though concealed beneath her screen—which resembled the mantilla then worn in Flanders—called forth both obeisance and doffings of the bonnets of young and old.

The Duke of Rothesay.

Meantime the little party were overtaken by a tall young man wrapped in a cloak (the Duke of Rothesay). He came on the right side of Catharine, who had hold of her father's arm, and slackened his pace as if joining their party.

"Good even to you, good man," said the stranger.

"The same to your Highness and thanks. May I pray you to pass on? Our pace is too slow for that of your lordship, our company too mean for that of your father's son."

"My father's son can best judge of that, old man. I have business to talk of with you and with my fair St. Catharine here, the loveliest and most obdurate saint in the calendar."

Rebuffed.

Simon Glover.

"With deep reverence, my lord," said Simon Glover, "I would remind you that this is good St. Valentine's Eve, which is no time for business, and that I can

have your worshipful commands by a serving man as early as it pleases you to send them."

"There is no time like the present. I wish to know whether the buff doublet be finished, which I commissioned some time since, and from you, pretty Catharine, whether your fair fingers have been employed upon it, agreeably to your promise. Traitress, how wilt thou answer for thus tormenting the heart that loves thee so dearly?"

Rebuked.

Entreaty.

"Let me entreat you, my lord," said Catharine, "to forego this wild talk; it becomes not you to speak thus, nor me to listen. We are of poor rank, but honest manners. The presence of the father ought to protect the child from such expressions, even from your lordship."

"Will you let me see you from your window to-morrow, when the sun first peeps over Kinnoull Hill, and give me the right to be your Valentine for the year?"

"Not so, my lord; my father but now told me that hawks, far less eagles, pair not with the humble linnet. Seek some Court lady, to whom your favours will be honour; to me—your Highness must permit me to speak the plain truth—they can be nothing but disgrace."

Analogy.

The Fair Maid became the Valentine of Hal o' the Wynd, the city's noted armourer.

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SCOTTISH COURT AT PERTH.

PRETTY LOUISE.

**The Earl of
March.**

King Robert III. called aloud to the prior of the Dominicans, or Blackfriars, "I hear the trampling of horse. Your place commands the courtyard, reverend father. Look from the window and tell us who alights. The Duke of Rothesay, my son, is it not?"

"The noble Earl of March, with his followers," said the prior.

"Is he strongly accompanied?" asked the King. "Do his people enter the inner gate?"

A Surprise.

"The Earl is attended by two pages, two gentlemen, and four grooms. One page follows him up the main staircase, bearing his Lordship's sword. The others halt in the courtyard and Benedicite, how is this?"

Louise.

"Here is a strolling glee-woman, with her viol, preparing to sing beneath the Royal windows, and in the cloister of the Blackfriars Monastery of Perth as she might in the yard of a city hostelry! I will have her thrust forth."

**A Strolling
Musician.**

A Poor Wandering One.

"Not so, father," said the King. "Let me implore grace for the poor wanderer. 'The joyous science,' as they call it, which they only profess, mingles sadly with the distresses to which want and calamity condemns a strolling race. And in that they resemble a King, to whom

all men cry 'All hail!' while he lacks the homage and obedient affection which the poorest yeoman receives from his family.

Intercession.

"Let the wandering glee-woman remain undisturbed, father. Let her sing if she will to the yeomen and troopers in the courtyard. It will keep them from quarrelling with each other, belonging, as they do, to such unruly and hostile masters as the Earl of March and Earl of Douglas."

So spoke the well-meaning Robert III., and the prior bowed.

The Earl of March.

As he spoke, the Earl of March entered the hall of audience.

"I am glad to see you, my Lord of March," said the King, with a gracious inclination of his person. "You have been long absent from our councils."

"My liege," answered March, with a deep reverence to the King, and a haughty and formal inclination to the Duke of Albany, the King's brother, "if I have been absent from your Grace's councils, it is because my place has been supplied by more acceptable, and I doubt not, abler Councillors. And now, I come but to say to your Highness that the news from the English borders makes it necessary that I should return without delay to my own district. Your Grace has your wise and politic brother, my Lord of Albany, with whom to consult, and the mighty and warlike Earl of

**A Gentle
Monarch.**

**Duke of
Albany.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Highland Clans.

Douglas to carry your commands into effect. I am no use, save in my own country; and thither, with your Highness's permission, I am purposed instantly to return, to attend my charge, as Warden of the Eastern Marches."

Robert III.

"You will not deal so unkindly with us, cousin," replied the gentle monarch. "There are evil tidings on the wind. These unhappy Highland clans are again breaking into general commotion, and the tranquility of our Court requires the wisest of our council to advise, and the bravest of our barons to execute, what may be resolved upon."

"I leave with my King the descendant of the far-famed James of Douglas," answered March.

The King—"Hark, to divert this parley—I hear no unpleasing touch of minstrelsy. The notes are of France, I think."

The tune, which was played upon a viol, was gay and sprightly in the commencement, with a touch of the wildness of the troubadour music. As it proceeded, the faltering tones of the instrument, and of the Glee Maiden, became plaintive and interrupted, as if choked by the feelings of the minstrel. Then issued forth:—

The Glee Maiden.

THE LAY OF POOR LOUISE.

Ah, poor Louise! The live-long day
She roams from cot to castle gay;
And still her voice and viol say,
Ah, maids, beware the woodland way.
Think on Louise.



HIGH STREET PORT.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Ah, poor Louise! The sun was high:
It smirch'd her cheek, it dimm'd her eye.
The woodland walk was cool and nigh,
Where birds with chiming streamlets vie.
To cheer Louise.

Ah, poor Louise! The savage bear
Made ne'er that lovely grove his lair;
The wolves molest not paths so fair—
But better far has such been there,
For poor Louise.

Ah, poor Louise! In woody wold
She met a huntsman fair and bold;
His baldrick was of silk and gold,
And many a witching tale he told
To poor Louise.

Ah, poor Louise! Small cause to pine
Hadst thou for treasures of the mine;
For peace of mind, that gift divine,
And spotless innocence, were thine.
Ah, poor Louise!

Ah, poor Louise! Thy treasure's reft,
I know not if by force or theft,
Or part by violence, part by gift;
But misery is all that's left.
To poor Louise.

Let poor Louise some succour have!
She will not long your bounty crave,
Or tire the gay with warning stave;
For Heaven has grace, and earth a grave!
For poor Louise!

The song was no sooner finished than
King Robert called to the Earl of March
—"What think you of the minstrelsy, my
Lord?"

March replied—"My judgment is not
deep, my Lord; but the singer seems to
have received that of his Grace the Duke
of Rothesay, your son, the first judge in
Scotland."

Tableaux.

**Huntsman
Fair and
Bold.**

**Earl of
March.**

BATTLE OF THE NORTH INCH,

1396.

Season of
Easter.

Palm Sunday dawned. At an earlier period of the Christian Church, the use of any of the days of Passion Week for the purpose of strife and combat would have been accounted a profanity worthy of excommunication. The Church of Rome, to her infinite honour, had decided that during the holy season of Easter, when the redemption of Man from his fallen state was accomplished, the sword of war should be sheathed, and all monarchs should respect the season termed the Truce of God.

The Coming Conflict.

On the present Easter occasion the solemn duties of the day were observed with the usual solemnity, and the combatants, Clan Chattan and Clan Quhele took share in them. Bearing branches of yew trees in their hands, as the readiest substitute for palm boughs, they marched to the Dominican and Carthusian Monasteries to hear High Mass, and by a show of devotion, to prepare themselves for the bloody strife of the day. Great care was taken so that during this march, they should not come within the sound of each other's bagpipes and attack each other before they arrived at the place of combat.

Avoiding
Each Other.

The Gilded Arbour.

The Gilded Arbour was erected at the North Inch, the lists were arranged, the bagpipes, reminiscent of Highland

minstrelsy, sounded the "Gathering" or battle-tunes of the rival clans.

But the Earl of Errol cried—"The combat of thirty men against thirty cannot proceed, for the Clan Chattan lack one of their number."

The Earl of Crawford.

"What reckon of that?" said the young Earl of Crawford, "they should have counted better ere they left home."

"Make proclamation, heralds, that if anyone will take his share with Clan Chattan of the honours and chances of this day, he shall have present payment of a gold crown, and liberty to fight to the death!"

"Hal o' the Wynd."

None showed the slightest intention to undertake the task proposed, until the sound of the proclamation reached Hal o' the Wynd, as he stood without the barrier, speaking to Bailie Craigdallie, who cried, "Here am I, sir herald, willing to do battle on the part of the Clan Chattan."

The Clans marched in turn round the lists, but avoided meeting each other, ere making obeisance as they passed the Gilded Arbour, where the King was seated.

The Chiefs ordered their champions into their places, the trumpeters of the King sounded a charge, the bagpipes blew their screaming notes, and the combatants, in three rows, engaged each other.

**Earl of
Crawford.**

**Gilded
Arbour.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**"Death for
Hector!"**

Torquil of the Oak.

Torquil of the Oak was the great leader of Clan Quhele, but the young Chief Eachin was all unknown to his clan, born without courage, which was supposed to be due to witchcraft and was often his undoing. It was so in the Battle of the Clans at Perth.

Again and again old Torquil cried—"Bas air son Eachin"—"Death for Hector!" And anon, "Reist air son Eachin"—"Again for Hector!"

But the battle went against Clan Quhele and in favour of Clan Chattan, thanks to the prowess of Hal o' the Wynd, and a black chanter falling from heaven, and encouraging the Cats to victory.

"Bas air Son Eachin!"

With his last breath "Bas air son Eachin," old Torquil fell, and Eachin drawing one ineffectual blow at Hal o' the Wynd, plunged into the River Tay, swarm the broad stream, and escaped. After events said he committed suicide at the Linn of Campsie, near Stobhall.

And thus ended the Battle of the North Inch in 1396.

**The Name
of Gow.**

The Fair Maid of Perth and Hal o' the Wynd married, and had many children, which bore the name of Gow, the Gaelic for the bandy-legged armourer of Perth.

"Love and a Beautiful Life."

Court life, pomp and power, strife, battles, brawlers, even the face of nature may change—but *Love* and a beautiful

life remain, and especially a woman's love!

And so Perth people ever thank Sir Walter Scott for "The Fair Maid of Perth."

Addendum.

Apropos of the Clan Battle on the North Inch an interesting "incidental" falls to be noted. As given by Sir Walter Scott, the tricky reply of the Earl of Crawford as to "better numbering before leaving home," at once arrests the reader. There is no more interesting baronial ruin in Angus than that of Edzell Castle, near Brechin. "J. H. J.," writing in the "Weekly Scotsman" of recent date, said:—

"Crawford is a very ancient West of Scotland name, originally Crauford and Craufurd, from the barony which came into possession of the Lindsays, Earls of Crawford, through forfeiture, about 1398. Means the ford at the Cro, 'sheepfold or bucht.' Tartan—Lindsay."

"A. G. S. D."

In the same issue of the "Weekly Scotsman," "A. G. S. D." had the following:—

CRAWFORD.

"This surname has intimate connection with the Lindsays of Glenesk, in Angus. In 1398 Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk was created Earl of Crawford by King Robert III., and it is worthy of note that the first Lieutenant-Colonel of the renowned 'Black Watch' was John, twentieth Earl of Crawford, and fourth Earl of Lindsay. The ancient seat of the clan was Edzell Castle, one of the largest strongholds in Angus, where the Lindsays gathered recently to honour the memories which those storied walls recall. Clan and Tartan—Lindsay."

**Interesting
Incidental.**

**Creation
1398.**

**Bibliophile
Treasurers.**

Crawford and Balcarres.

The writer having had occasion at a Libraries' Conference to visit Haigh Hall, Wigan, one of the English residences of the present Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, and there viewing the many bibliophile treasures such as first editions of Shakespeare, early printed Scottish books, etc., drew his Lordship's attention to the reference in "The Fair Maid of Perth," received the following interesting communication:—

"7 Audley Square,
London, W.1,

6th November, 1928.

Sir,—There were no Earls of Crawford in 1396; but I should fancy that my family must have had appointments under the Crown. They certainly were what would now be Barons of Parliament. The best account of my family at that period will be found in my grandfather's book, 'The Lives of the Lindsays.'—
Yours ffy., Crawford and Balcarres."

Perth's Campanology

St Johnstoune's Bells

The Service and Sentiment of Music

Some Incidentals

" St. Johnstoune's bells
Ring bonnie, O! "

Perth's Sabbath morning calm is pleasantly broken in on by the sound of bells at 9 o'clock. If it is summer, all the more agreeable that such sounds should blend with sunshine, and the singing of birds. The early " sound " of bells under such conditions is a survivor from earlier ecclesiastical arrangements associated with " guid auld St. John's," on the First Day of the week and other occasions. On the six days of work, three hours earlier, " Perth Bells " call to labour, which under present arrangements is not as a rule begun till two hours later.

" Sweet is the solemn sound that calls the Christian to the house of prayer " (which may be either city or country). Such is the ideal well-spent Sunday.

Secular Work.

Where it is a matter of secular work, then the previous night's rest has made the body fit and responsive to the call of duty and labour for the day to be entered upon. Then comes the evening: long before Curfew sounds in Perth labour has ceased. Perchance a few persons have not returned to their homes—not even when " Lang Lowrie " tolls in St. John's Steeple at 10 p.m. to say

**Sunday,
9 a.m.**

**Call of Duty
and Labour.**

"The Bells."

**A Bit Here
and There.**

"lights out." If they have not, perchance they hear military bugles sound the same message. Conforming to what is good and suitable for daily life is the great, and simple secret, of truly enjoying life.

The Subject.

The oldest and the youngest person in Perth has heard "The Bells" possibly longer than they can remember—for "The Bells" were ringing ere their advent into the world, and will be doing so long after they have made their exit. St. John's and St. Paul's, and in later years St. Stephen's, Craigie; across the river, Kinnoull, and with a favourable wind Scone, two miles distant, are "the bells" we have in our mind's ear. Sweet they are to those at home, but how much more so to Perth people who have gone to and now reside in distant parts—such things are "hame" and the true test of it.

The pleasure of "The Bells" to the local resident opens up the subject if he asks:—Whence these sounds of joy, service, or sacrifice? Here one must needs go to the beginning of things—so far as we know them—and culling a bit of information here and a bit there, present as far as possible a record of the subject. The Chinese, it is said, used bells in their worship 5,000 years ago.

The Christian Era.

It has been declared that there is no trustworthy evidence as to bells before

the Christian era. This fits in agreeably to our subject, which is to treat of the matter ecclesiastically; other parts of it must be incidentally, although of interest. Thus: going to antiquity, alike on the sacred and secular side, there is early mention of cymbals, and hand-bells were used in many ceremonies. In Egypt, the festival of Isis was celebrated with sistra, presumably crotals, small bells. Aaron and other Jewish priests in their high festivals wore small golden bells attached to their vestments. The high priests of Cybele used cymbals in their rites. In their period of pre-eminence and culture the Greeks employed Kodones (a form of bell) in camps and garrisons.

**Egypt's
Isis.**

Early Bells.

Christian churches did not use bells until the fifth or sixth century. The first church bells were made in Campania (hence the generic name) in Italy, and were used in churches in Rome. After a little more than a century their popularity influenced a Pope to ordain that every church should have a bell. There are many very large bells (old and new) throughout Europe and America. Old-time life in England was regulated by the ringing of bells. Thus:

**Every
Church a
Bell.**

Vestry bells summoned the church vestry.
Mote bells announced village meetings.
Harvest bells called workers to the fields.
Oven bells noted the hour for baking bread.
Market bells signalled the opening of the
markets.

**St John's
Carillon.**

Carillons.

In early times there was great rivalry among the cities of the Netherlands and Belgium as to their bells. In the 15th century (at home and abroad) timepieces were rare, and people depended upon the Town Clock for the time of day or night. Small bells were made for chiming, and various forms of carillon mechanism invented, which still continue. The present carillon in St. John's Church Steeple is one patented by Messrs. Gillett and Bland, Croydon, London, and erected in 1881.

The Singing Tower, Louvain University, Belgium, has had added to it a carillon of 48 bells—one for each of the United States—in memory of American engineers who died in the Great War.

The Romans.

The Romans announced the hour of bathing by the *æsthermarum* bell. At the excavations at Newstead two Roman bells were found. The Romans adorned their horses with bells; silver bells were coveted Roman prizes; Scottish race-course prizes were at first silver bells—Perth, Paisley, Lanark, etc. No doubt the Romans made their "announcements" in all occupied ground as uniform as they did their military tactics and success, even to Perth itself and the adjoining district.

Silver Bells.

Animal Bells.

At an early period, it occurred to man to decorate animals with bells—as ornamentation, or as a means of finding such

if they went astray. Among the larger animals, camels took first place and broke the stillness of the caravan route; more picturesque perhaps the rein-deer drawing its sleigh through snow; more useful, when cows strayed from home pasture, or the bell-wether led the flock; horses, the first of a line of pack-ponies, and dogs were decorated for fete and other occasions; pack-horses carried a bell that the others might follow; the cat, sacred in some countries, abhorred in others, and never particularly inclined to be trained although tamed, does not object to a bell so long as it is a kitten, but resents such later on, and its nature is well typified in Scottish history in the act of "Archibald (Douglas) Bell the Cat." A Douglas for a difficult job in Scottish affairs, or in this case, was it a duty?

Gay and Grave.

It is still the custom throughout Great Britain to announce any notable event by the ringing of bells. When "Peace" took place in the recent Great War, St. John's Bells in the city rang out the glad and welcome news. When a notable birth occurs, bells ring out the intimation; when a notable marriage takes place, bells ring merrily; when a notable death takes place, the solemn sombre sound announces the passing of the good and great. Years ago in small villages in Scotland the kirk-bell was tolled at the interment of every parishioner in the parish kirkyard.

**The
Bell-Wether.**

**Notable
Events.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Morris Dance.

Dancing.

One again touches the mists of antiquity in the matter of time when dancers first used bells to accentuate their agile movements and to please the ear as well as the eye. One of these dances is that known as the Morris Dance, at present being revived at musical festivals; of Moorish origin, it is thus vernacularised in its transference from the days of Spain and Spanish splendour and noticeable to-day in South American and Wild West displays in films. A notable representation of this bell-dance was given on a raft on the Tay before Charles I. in 1633. Perth Glover Incorporation have, among other interesting articles, one of the Morris-dance dresses used on that occasion.

"The Fire Bell."

Neptune.

Bells are used on ships to announce the "watches," and change of duty; in olden times bells were rung backwards to announce public danger; "the fire bell" to a past generation, and even to a present-day one, is an arresting sound as not horse but motor engines dash forward to subdue a conflagration; we return to Neptune in the buoy-boats with bell sound which warns the mariner in foggy weather; light-houses have taken the place of friendly "bell rocks," although the mind goes back to the retributive justice which followed Ralph the Rover for destroying the friendly bell of Inchcape. The interesting story is given later in fuller detail.

Past and Present.

In early times, "to bear the bell," was to carry off the trophy offered, or a metaphorical honour much appreciated by men; to be the belle of the ball was equally appreciated by ladies. But there were other bells not appreciated: for instance, to be put "to the horn" (or sound of an instrument), was a matter akin to outlawry; when Sheriff officers came into being it was often to announce by sound of bell and then by speech—"there will be sold by public roup" confiscated goods. The Church was powerful in old days to invite people (even compel them) to assemble themselves together for higher things: those who would not, or were guilty of more heinous sins, were

**"To the
Horn."**

By Book, Bell, and Candle.

Excommunicated by book, bell, and candle—the book from which the sentence was read was shut, the candle light put out by being dashed to the ground and extinguished, and a bell rung, and the words uttered "Do to the book, quench the candle, ring the bell."

Prisons.

Many prisons still regulate hours and administration (over and above clocks) by bells which tell of hours of daily tasks, exercise, food, light, etc. Ere getting admission to a prison, voluntarily or compulsorily, one has to ring a bell, and in cases of the last act of a capital sentence and execution a bell is rung or a black flag hoisted. In Perth, we have mention made of the first bell which was

**Hours by
Bells.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

H.M. Prison, Perth.

erected at H.M. Prison when the French prisoners of war (to the number of 4,000) were located at Perth. Obtrusive lights and the ringing of bells were prohibited in Perth as elsewhere during the Great War. At that time H.M. Prison bell was cracked and lay useless. A short time ago the cracked bell and another from the Calton Prison, Edinburgh, were re-cast together in Glasgow, and once more "announce" the hours at H.M. Prison.

Public Functions.

The Electric Button.

The Town Council of Perth of early day (1610) were summoned to meetings by the ringing of three bells, and absent members were fined! At public meetings at the present day the chairman invariably has a bell in front of him to help to call or maintain "order"; school assembling, its "periods" during the day, and its ending is indicated by the sounding of a bell; the days of tirling pins, rappers, knockers, etc., having largely passed away, we now announce our presence at a house by ringing "the bell," or pressing the more modern electric button, which serves the same purpose; bells in houses are now common, but not so long ago people were "gentry" (especially in Thrums) who pulled a cord in one room and there sounded a bell in another, and it is told that a man was once holding forth that it was a mighty trumpet which caused the walls of Jericho to fall, not a present-day penny trumpet. There are "present-day" penny bells!

Bell—and Bells.

The present-day designation "bell" does not include gongs, cymbals, metal plates, resonant bars, or tinkling instruments. A "diving bell" is an analogy as to shape. For those who may desire to pursue the subject technically there is no better authority or information, especially as regards Scottish bells, than the illustrated catalogue on the subject in the Archæological Museum, Edinburgh (1856). Two good things in one—botany and song—"The Scottish Blue Bells."

Church Bells and Town Bells.

Our object is to continue the subject as regards Church bells and Town bells. Here one is met with bells which bear little outward appearance to present-day bells, and constituent parts or minerals which served their day but have now passed away. Keeping as close as possible to the Scottish side of the subject, we find bells not of campana or dome shape, but often quadrangular and made of iron plates hammered and riveted together; later was discovered the art of casting. As to material: bells have been made of iron (hammered and cast), bronze (usually four parts of copper to one of tin), brass, steel, silver, and glass (crystal). Now and again old Celtic bells of quadrangular shape have been found in Perthshire: Kinkell, St. Fillans, Newburgh-on-Tay, etc., and in each case these have been carefully preserved.

**Scottish
Bells.**

**Casting
Bells.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

84 A.D.
500-600
A.D.

Romans and St. Columba.

When the Romans were in Perth (84 A.D.) it is possible that they conformed to their usual customs and rang bells at stated hours. When the apostles of St. Columba (500-600 A.D.) arrived in Perth and built a church, by some means or other the hour of service would be announced—possibly by a bell, and this may have applied to the first wattle and clay church and to the one built of stone about 800-900 A.D.

Belfries—and Belfries.

Just as there were bells—and bells—in ancient times, so there were belfries—and belfries. In country districts a tree was often made a belfry for the purpose of assisting in making announcements, and so came into being “bell-trees.” At Weem, Perthshire, a unique find was recently got—a bell, about 8-ins. x 8-ins., embedded in the boll of a tree, and bearing date 1790. The tree had grown round it, and there it reposed till a saw struck it.

“Macbeth’s”
Duncan.

On the Stage.

In thought, one pictures the Stage, and Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” on the boards; in hush and semi-darkness the lines are spoken, after a bell has rung—“Duncan, ’tis the knell, which summons thee to heaven or hell!” Again, Sir Henry Irving in “The Bells”—a miser must part with his gold. Lighter and more pleasing: “Les Cloches de Corne-

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ville," "The Bells of Aberdovey," "The Bells of St. Mary's," etc.

The Jester.

Our old friend of Court and Stage, the Jester, wore a cap with bells.

Spain.

When Spain was the great power of the Mediterranean—on land everything was decorated—horses with bells, especially, and South America continues the idea.

Of First Importance.

Of first importance on many occasions is the "Division Bell" in the House of Commons. The "vote" may make or mar something of first rate importance. One does not need to go back to old-time history. In recent years the British Empire in peace and war has known the importance of a "division" of the House of Commons—the "will of the people" as expressed by their representatives, and well-nigh invariably expressed for good! Who questions the Flappers' Vote?

Religious Houses.

Perth had at 1559, the Blackfriars, the Whitefriars, the Carthusians, and Greyfriars monasteries. Each monastery had a bell, and what became of them it is difficult to say: conveyed to St. John's Steeple, or melted? St. Leonard's Priory and St. Magdalene's Nunnery, Elcho Nunnery, Lindores Abbey, and Scone Abbey would also have bells. Where have they gone to?

**Cap and
Bells.**

Where?

Abbot of
Aberbrothok

Sir Ralph
the Rover.

Bell-Boats.

As one leaves the Thames for home, or foreign parts, by steamer, they never fail to notice the "bell-boats," or buoys, placed to guide captains or pilots in the safe steering of vessels. The ebb and flow of the tide causes the boat and bell to give audible warning. Proceeding to the open water, the North Sea (no longer the German Ocean), we are reminded of a similar boat and bell once upon a time at the mouth of the Tay. In the long ago the Abbot of Aberbrothok (the modern Arbroath) affixed a bell to a moored buoy in the sea twelve miles from his abbey, to warn "saylers" of the sunken rocks of Inchcape. There was danger on dark stormy nights, but the wilder the storm the louder the kindly abbot's bell sounded. Ralph the Rover, a notable sea-reiver of the day, considered the device unsuited to his nefarious trade, and cut the bell-buoy adrift, to his own undoing years later. But let Southey, the poet, tell the story (abbreviated):—

The Inchcape Bell.

"The Abbot of Aberbrothok
Placed a bell on the Inchcape Rock;
On a buoy in the storm it floated and swung,
And over the waves its warning rung.

Sir Ralph the Rover walk'd his deck,
And he fixed his eye on the darker speck—
Row me to the Inchcape Rock
And I'll plague the Abbot of Aberbrothok.

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Sir Ralph bent over the boat,
And he cut the Bell from the Inchcape float,
Down sunk the Bell with a gurgling sound;
The bubbles rose, and burst around.

Sir Ralph the Rover sail'd away
He scour'd the seas for many a day;
And now grown rich with plunder'd store,
He steers his course for Scotland's shore.

'Canst hear,' said one, 'the breakers roar?
For methinks we should be near the shore.
Now where we are I cannot tell
But I wish I could hear the Inchcape Bell.'

They hear no sound, the swell is strong;
Though the wind hath fallen, they drift along
Till the vessel strikes with a shivering shock
'O Christ! it is the Inchcape Rock!'

Sir Ralph the Rover tore his hair;
He curst himself in his despair—
The waves rush in on every side,
The ship is sinking beneath the tide!
But even in his dying fear
One dreadful sound could the Rover hear,
A sound as if with the Inchcape Bell
The Devil himself was ringing his knell."

So wrote Southey in Bristol in 1802, a hundred and twenty-seven years ago. From his residence at Keswick, Southey gave forth many outstanding poems. Most poets praise bells, not so Southey on one occasion—"Thou tedious herald of more tedious prayers; and Romish rites retained, though Romish faith be flown." Two Southey references, having connection with Perthshire, are more appreciative—Moore at Corunna:—"He fought, he conquered, and he fell," and Lord Lynedoch carried on the command. As to the Battle of Barossa, Lynedoch's

**The
Breakers!**

Southey.

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own great achievement—Southey wrote —“Scotland, shouting over all her hills, among her worthies rank'd another Graham.”

As is well-known what in later years has become known as the Bell Rock is now surmounted by a lighthouse giving light at night to the mariner “far, far at sea.”

Changes.

St. John's Church.

The Christianizing of Perth was followed by canonizing, and St. John the Baptist was selected as titular saint. The St. Columban Church passed away. Canons regular of Rome came in with Margaret, Queen of Malcolm Canmore (1070-1075 A.D.). Perth at this time was one of the chief ecclesiastical centres of Scotland, and Canmore often resided in it. With the advent of the English Margaret, Dunfermline became the Royal centre (and Royal place of sepulchre) for many years. For five hundred years (approximately) Roman Catholicism held sway in Scotland, and then passed away. During this time St. John's Church advanced with the times to high ceremonial and altars.

High Ceremonial.

Music.

With high ceremonial and altars came music and bells. There is in existence in the possession of Miss Lumsden of Ruthvenfield, Perth, an apocryphal picture of St. John's Church previous to the Reformation—gorgeous colouring, altars and shrines everywhere, lamps and candles, and here and there the people

kneeling at mass. At that time there were no fixed seats in St. John's Church, the floor of the building being paved with gravestones. The historical account of Knox's famous sermon which directly led to the Reformation is that it was preached on Thursday, 11th May, 1559. Later in a tumult an individual threw a stone at a priest which struck an altar, then "the rascal multitude" destroyed the interior—a similar affair as to what happened in St. Giles Cathedral of Edinburgh. At a later date people brought small seats and stools with them to church; later still fixed pews were introduced.

The Organ.

Organs were such a rarity in Presbyterian Churches in Scotland for many years that one feels compelled to incidentally allude to the instrument in St. John's Church in early times, more especially in that the reference is linked with the bells. Organs are said to have been used in Christian worship services as early as 360 A.D. How soon the instrument first made its appearance in Scotland is unknown—possibly not earlier than the tenth century. In Perth Burgh records, of date 1511, there is an entry appointing George Dunning to be parish clerk, who had to employ a person to sing and play the organ (in St. John's Church) during divine service, and find strings and cords to the bells." Presumably the instrument had been in St. John's Church for a considerable time previous to the date mentioned.

**"The Rascal
Multitude."**

**Of Date
1511.**

Sunset and
Sunrise.

The Older Form of Service.

As there was an organ in St. John's Church at an early date, no doubt bells were introduced as the services required. Thus: in pre-Reformation days it is said that there were six services every twenty-four hours—in St. John's Church—three between sunset and sunrise, and three during the day, the chief service being at sunset, which was reckoned the beginning of the day. The canonical hours under the monastic system were slightly different:—seven services, matins from midnight until prime; prime from about 6 o'clock a.m. until tierce; tierce from about 9 a.m. to sext; sext from noon till nones; nones from about 2 or 3 p.m. to vespers; vespers from about 4 p.m. to compline; compline (or complotorium), about 7 p.m. At these services all the inmates (except the sick and domestics) were expected to attend.

1521.

"Organ
Playing."

In October, 1521, John Charteris, brother of Patrick Charteris of Cuthilgurdy, Provost of Perth, was appointed "all the days of his life" to be Parish Clerk, and to "find and sustain ane good and able and sufficient person of cunning in counter singing and organ playing, to the daily uphold of matins, high mass, and even songs, both festival and serial days, with note and other divine service daily, to be done in the kirk and choir."

Book of Common Order.

In St. John's Church the passing from

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Roman Catholicism to Protestantism was very much on the lines of Knox's "Book of Common Order." The order was for several male voice choristers to sing an introit or opening piece of praise, the minister followed by reading a confession of sins, giving out a psalm to be sung, another prayer, and then the sermon; another prayer and the Apostle's Creed, a psalm, and the pastoral benediction terminated the Sunday service. Prayers were read morning and evening on every week-day in all parish churches by a subordinate minister called a Reader, who also officiated on Sundays in case of emergency. There was also a leader of praise called "the taker up of the psalm." The church bells rang before service.

Sunday Service.

Before and After.

Bells were held in high esteem by the Church before and after 1559: they were inscribed with prayers and ejaculations to heaven and the saints; they were baptised and blessed with all the ceremonial attending an infant; they were believed (thus consecrated) to keep faithful people from danger and put to flight enemies. In the "Picture of Scotland" a Perth legend is reproduced to the effect that before the Reformation a large bell was on its way to the Church of Perth, that the ship which brought it being obliged to unload the bell at the Friarton pier, the bell fell into the water. Some years afterwards a diver undertook to recover it, but without success!

A Perth Legend.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Celtic Bells.

He came up in breathless terror declaring that he had seen the bell but found the Devil and his wife making their porridge in it. The bell was allowed to remain. The probability is (as surmised) bells were got for churches alike under the St. Columban and later regime. One of the most oft referred to of Celtic bells is that of St. Fillan's chapel at Lochearnhead (an oblong) which at one time was credited with curing mentals.

Music Bells.

Clocks and bells naturally went together in a church tower or belfry. Later there came to be added smaller musical bells. It is believed that a set of music bells belonged to St. John's Church over three hundred years ago, and these denoted the half-hours. The Town Council minutes of 1607, 1608, and 1609 tell of "orders" being made to mend the knock and half-hour bells, and further minutes of 1615, 1619, 1620, and 1621 record grants for clothing to the "Keeper of the Steeple," to get new tow ropes, and repair the bartisan.

1621.

Preaching Bells.

The minute of 1621 is alike informative and emphatic—it is by the Kirk-session who "ordered the tongue of the preaching bell to be mended, and also the sprent of one of the hammers of the half-hour bells," and a month later attention was called to the fact that "some special parts of the half-hour knock is failed." Thus we get early glimpses of the public clocks and bells of Perth. These in turn

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cause rhyming thoughts to arise, and that while "Dumbarton drums beat bonnie," the counterpart was "St. Johnstoune's bells ring bonnie, and awaken echoes mony, O," by Wm. Clyde. But Perth did not have it all its own way—an old couplet ran — "Glasgow for bells; Linlithgow for wells." Another was—"Perth, whose evening bells the roving Highlander hears sweet though far, descending Stenton hill" (near Dunkeld).

Two Important Events.

Two important events to Perth occurred circa 1582 and 1682. The first was the Raid of Ruthven when James VI. as a boy was kidnapped and confined for a short time in, by turn, named Ruthven and Huntingtower Castle when the struggle was going on as to whether Scotland would become Episcopalian or Presbyterian. The second was as to the "Gowrie Conspiracy" at Perth in which the King was inveigled from Falkland Palace, and the ringing of a bell played a part as to James being safe and the young Gowrie's losing their lives. Then followed the "Five Articles of Perth" and Episcopacy in power, to in turn pass away by 1690. Roman Catholic, Protestant, Episcopal and Presbyterian services have thus been held in St. John's Church, and the same bells have announced the different services!

Town Council Records.

Town Council records:—Since 1652, three bells purchased by City of Perth.

**Evening
Bells.**

**Changes
in 1690.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

21st March, 1653.

One of the most interesting and important Town Council minutes bearing on St. John's Bells refers to a formal visitation of the bells in St. John's Steeple on 21st March, 1653. It is as follows:—

Visitation.

1653—MARCH 21.

VISITATIOUNE ABOUT THE STEEPELL AND BELLIS

I. PREACHING BELL.

On the upper syde of the Bell without
Meckle pearling is about.
Pxx.

Joannes Baptista Vocor Ego

Vox clamantis in Deserto

Mecklini Petrus Maghenus me formavit:

Sic benedictus qui cuncta creavit

M. ccccc. VI.

147 zeiris old.

II. COMMONE BELL.

This bell is in the diameter in wydnes
wtne the lippis 1 ell 1 quarter and ane
half.

Joannes Baptista Vocor:

Nos autem gloriari oportet in cruce Domini
nostri Jhesu Christi.

Anno Domini, 1520.—This upmost on
the head of the Bell.

Pearling on ilk syd.

Facta sum Mecklini per Georg. Maghen.

Ego vox clamantis in Deserto

Parate viam Domini.

Stamps of John the Baptist on Ilk syd.

In miedest Christ ryding on ane as colt, and
people crying.

III. ON THE SKELLOCHE littill Bell anno dom. 1400.

253 zeiris old. 253 zeiris old this bell is.

IV. ON THE CURFEW BELL in legeabill old character letters. No date.

Onlie this read	pro nobis	on it twa crounes
	clamare	and ane cross.

The List.

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V. Anno 1526. SEVEN HOURE BELLIS without
the steepill, viz., on Bell for the hail
hor and six for the haff hour.

Inter Ia omnes heving

The notes of the half hor musick being 32
notes

The Son of Adam answered them. All
glorie to the

Sone of Man, the Father and the Spirit
with and ppetualy

Efter the English musical notes of Perth
Vel Salutatis Anglica.

Ave Maria Benedictata inter mulieres
Et benedicta sit fructus ventris tui.

The "Statistical Account of Perthshire—Parish of Perth," p. 105, also contains the foregoing report of the visitation. Mr. Robert Scott Fittis in "Historical and Traditionary Gleanings concerning Perthshire," published in 1876, makes an interesting running commentary on the report, noting the large, and the small musical bells.

A Tradition.

A tradition has come down to the present time that the bell dated 1400 belonged to the Blackfriars Monastery, and was the one in early times on which the "Curfew" was sounded. The niche on the south-west front of the "Fair Maid of Perth's House" is believed to have contained a representation of St. Bartholomew, the patron saint of the Glovers, rather than a curfew bell.

The Skelloch Bell.

The Skelloch Bell, cast in 1400, is the oldest of the bells in St. John's Steeple at the present time. The Kirk-session

Anno 1526.

Curfew.

**Various
Ringings.**

**"Even the
Cows."**

records of 6th October, 1578, tell—"The Assembly ordains James Sim, uptaker of the casualties that intervenes into the Kirk, to buy a Tow to the Little Skellet Bell: the whilk Bell shall be only rung to the affairs of the Kirk, as to the Exercises, or to the Assemblies"—the meetings of Kirk-session. St. John's Bells were later rung for sittings of Sheriff Court, meetings of the Guildry Incorporation, etc. The Skelloch Bell was injured many years ago, but repaired. In 1810, while H.M. Prison, Perth, was being erected it was converted into a Depot for 4,000 French prisoners of war, many of whom were conveyed from France by ship to Dundee, and marched through the Carse of Gowrie to Perth, where they were detained until Napoleon was first captured and sent to Elba—the Skelloch Bell announced the hours of assembling and dismissing the workmen, etc. Some seventy years ago a Perth Corn Exchange was established at the foot of South Street (which only continued for a short time)—the Skelloch Bell did duty, and on the passing of the market it was returned to St. John's Steeple. Perth has become a great centre for the buying and selling of live stock, and at Messrs. Macdonald, Fraser and Co.'s and Messrs. Hay and Co.'s marts hand-bells ring previous to the start of sale.

The Curfew Bell

As noted there is no date on the Curfew Bell. (See Other Bells.) Its

decorations are a cornet, the word Ecce, the figure of a cock crowing, the inscription Agnus Dei, and something now obliterated. On 6th February, 1587, the Kirk-session ordained "Nicol Balmain to ring the Curfew and Workman Bell in the morning and evening, the space of ane quarter of an hour, at the times appointed, viz., four hours in the morning and eight at even." The intervening hours did not give much time for recreation and rest. Nowadays the tendency is to start work at 8 a.m. and finish as near as possible to 4 p.m.

The Preaching Bell.

The Preaching Bell, cast in the year 1506, is now known in Perth as the Ten o'clock Bell, or "Lang Lowry." The Preaching Bell has been tolled in St. John's at 10 p.m. since 1804—previous to which the tolling was done by the Common Bell, now in St Paul's Steeple. A number of years ago it became the fashion to give a "story" to everything, including bell-ringing. The Ten o'clock Bell gives forth 70 ordinary time tolls, which are said to tell of the birth and upbringing of man, and then 10 fast tolls which indicate his fast decay. Another assertion is that the bell tolls 70 strokes in memory of the 70 disciples who went forth to preach the Gospel. On Sundays, St. John's Church service bells give two short and one long toll again and again repeated, which are said to say—"Ding, ding dong; Christ's-cross our crown."

4 a.m. and
8 p.m.

"Lang
Lowry."

At a Cost
of £63.

Out after
10 o'clock!

The Common Bell.

The Common Bell, cast in 1520, was tolled at 10 o'clock at night from the early part of the 17th century to the year 1804; in that year it was broken on the occasion of some public rejoicing. It was re-cast in 1805 by Messrs. Thomas Mears and Son, of London, at a cost of some £63, and its original inscription repeated. It is inscribed—"Thomas Mears, London, Fecit, 1805." For many years it called people to worship on Sundays, and to work on week-days—the former at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m. (or 6 p.m.); and on the latter at 5.30 a.m., when the hour of starting work in Perth for artisans was 6 o'clock, now it is usually 8 o'clock.

In 1618, the Town Council passed an "Act" prohibiting inhabitants from being out of their houses after 10 o'clock at night. The prohibition was not attended to, the inhabitants alleging that they did not know the hour! The Town Council in turn "ordained that the Great (Common) Bell be tolled at 10 o'clock, that none pretend ignorance." This "Act" continues to the present day, but many people are out after 10 p.m.!

The Fire Bell.

It is said that the largest and best bell in St. John's Steeple at one time, called the Fire Bell, was struck by a fellow with a hammer and cracked. Although the pride of St. Johnstoune was re-cast with the same metal it never had the mellow

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tone of the first one. In 1848, it was transferred to St. Paul's Church Steeple. Later a bell, of date 1805, was put in St. Paul's Belfry, and continues to the present time. The Fire Bell was an important one in early times. The Town Council records of 1657 contain an "Act requiring obedience to the ringing of the Fire Bell for putting out fires."

Other Bells.

In 1769, the Town of Perth purchased a bell, which bears the undernoted inscription:—

I was made for the town of Perth in the reign of George III., in the year 1769.

Congregate.

Lister, Pack and Chapman of London, fecit.

While tolling for afternoon service on Sunday, 11th September, 1836, this bell was accidentally cracked. Next year it was re-cast by Messrs. Mears and Co., London. This is the bell now rung as the Curfew Bell at 8 o'clock at night.

Another bell was purchased in 1785, with the inscription—"Thomas Mears and Son, London." This bell measures 3 ft. 9 in. In 1805, another bell, similarly inscribed, and measuring 4 ft. 4 in., was got from the same firm for Perth.

The "Visitation" of 1653 enumerates only six half-hour bells, bearing the date of 1621. Of these, five still exist, along with other nine small bells, which compose the set, and at different times have been sounded by stroke of small hammer, or carillon barrel.

**The Bell
of 1769.**

**The Bell
of 1805.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Flemish
Make.**

Some Stories.

From the same source it will be seen that the first five music bells are of date 1526, and from the lettering on them are supposed to be of Flemish make, and these composed the chimes in 1653. Other nine bells were added, and these have continued to our day (at present out of use) with new bells being re-cast as required keeping the number up to fourteen. At one time it was said that the music-bells of Perth had in their amalgam silver and gold! For a number of years the bells played the following tunes:—

“Wauking o’ the Fauld.”

“Bonniest Lass in a’ the Warld.”

“Corn Rigs.”

“The Soldier’s Return.”

A carillon arrangement was introduced a number of years ago, and the number of tunes increased.

A Mistake.

**“Corn Rigs
are bonnie.”**

A story is to the effect that while the preacher in St. John’s Church one Sunday in summer was holding forth, by some way or other the “stop” which prevented the bells sounding on that day gave way, and preacher and congregation were surprised to hear the music-bells above chiming forth—“Corn Rigs are bonnie.” A wit had it that the minister’s text for the service “happened” to be Hosea x, 12—“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground!” The beadle saw

to it that the bells were more securely "gagged" in future!

More Stories.

At one time the soldiers from Perth Barracks were in the habit of being played on Sundays to St. John's. The Magistrates objected to "brass bands" playing on such occasions. Shortly afterwards the Magistrates proposed to get the music-bells to play hymns on Sundays at the half-hours; in turn the Commanding Officer pointed out what had previously occurred, and the matter dropped.

Another Mistake.

When Town Clocks were changed to Greenwich time, unexpectedly the music-bells on the first day gave forth "Ye Bank and Braes o' Bonnie Doon," at 5.30 p.m. when the true time was only 5 p.m. Francis Buchanan, a Perth poet of the period, and author of "The Crusader, with other Poems and Lyrics," published at Perth in 1848, wrote a humorous skit on the subject.

Penny, in his "Traditions of Perth," tells that at one time Mr. Peter Tossach, watchmaker (who at one time fitted up the music-bells), offered to fit up the large bells to also perform tunes!

In High Esteem.

The Curfew Bell has for long been held in high esteem in Perth. As monasticism and prelacy passed out of the ecclesiastical lives of the people a "strict

**Hymns on
Sundays.**

A Big Job.

Gray's
"Elegy."

burghal life" came in. Order and decorum even on week-days, and especially at nights were insisted on. Sir Walter Scott carried this on, and even renewed such in acceptable form, in "The Fair Maid of Perth." Church discipline was then very stern, and to-day thought narrow. It erred on the side of severe right rather than wrong. Gray's "Elegy" on "The Fair Maid of Perth's House" at the North Port, continues the better and higher thought to the present time:—

"The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea
The ploughman homeward plods his weary way
And leaves the world to darkness and to me."

The Clock.

Perth
Traders.

Anything as to bells or bell-chimes incidentally causes reference to be made to public clocks. One assumption is that clocks on abbeys followed the wake of ecclesiastical acceptance in southern and central Europe, and clocks on town buildings came largely through commercial trading with the Netherlands. Perth early traded with the Low Countries through the Mercers, the Sandemans, the Grahams, the Calders, and other families. Scottish towns are believed to have had bells as early as the 7th and 8th centuries. In 1535, the Town Council of Aberdeen made an order to send their Tolbooth Knok to Flanders to be mended, or a new one bought. In 1540, a new clock was made by Wm. Purvis, Edinburgh, for St. Mary's Abbey,

Dundee. There is no record as to when a public clock was first erected in Perth. Several large bells hung in the tower of St. John's Church previous to the Reformation and probably there was also a clock.

Mending and Attending.

The Town Council minutes of 25th May and 26th June, 1607 (previously noticed), refer to mending and attending to the Knock. So do the minutes of 1608 and 1619. Another minute of 1685 refers to the repairing of the Knock and the upholding of the bells in St. John's Steeple by James Taylor during his life. So high in public esteem was St. John's Church Clock held about the 17th and 18th centuries that a popular saying had it—

"Sun and moon may gang wrang,
But the clock o' St. Johnstoun canna gang
wrang."

A Curiosity.

For a hundred years, and prior to 1850, St. John's Tower possessed a curiosity—a piece of mechanism, under the north dial of the clock, representing the changes of the moon by the revolution of a large ball, one half of which was gilded, and the other half painted black, with seven stars in gilt. Mr. Alex. Nicol, schoolmaster, Collace, published a book of poems (Edinburgh, 1766)—"Several Subjects, both Comical and Serious," and in one piece on "The Banks o' Tay," he says—

**From 1607
to 1685.**

**The Moon
and Stars.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Regretted Change.

"The ancient royal palace Scoon
Stands on the pleasant banks o' Tay—
St. Johnston, where you'll see the moon
On clock-work increase and decay."

When St. John's Clock was lighted by gas in 1850, this astronomical arrangement (like to those on old grandfather clocks) was done away with; so was the previous square wooden dial and a circular one of ground glass introduced. Many regretted the "passing of the sun and moon" from St. John's. An artistic erection above the circular clock gives housing and protection to the present music-bells.

At the Present Time.

St. John's Steeple is ever an interesting place to visit—provided you are sound of wind and limb. Mr. Thomas Henderson has been bell-ringer for 52 years, and previous to that, as a boy ten years of age, he assisted his father. The first Thomas Henderson was in early life a weaver, and later a postman, and the previous bell-ringer to that was Macgregor, father of Mr. John Macgregor, for many years Postmaster of Perth. When the first Henderson was bell-ringer part of his perquisites was 2d. for every child born in the city—a perquisite which has long passed away! The present Thos. Henderson has rung St. John's Bells some 62 years! He is now assisted by his son, John.

Hendersons, Bellringers.

Sundays.

On Sundays, the Preaching Bells (three joined together—one known as the

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Chapping Bell) ring at 10 a.m. (three minutes), and at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. (15 minutes). Years ago the bell was rung at 2 p.m. (for afternoon service) and not at 6 p.m. except on special occasions. The Preaching Bell was also rung on Fast Days, but these passed away some forty years ago.

Week-Days.

On week-days, St. John's Workman or Skelloch Bell is rung at 5.30 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. On the evenings of the same days, but at 8 o'clock, the Curfew Bell rings for five minutes—which used to be the warning for all good citizens to be within doors. On the same evenings at 10 o'clock, "Lang Lowry," or the Ten o'clock Bell, is rung—the intimation for all lights to be out and the city gates shut when Perth was a walled city. The "ringing" consists of 40 slow tolls, which tell how slow life moves in its earlier years, 20 fast tolls which tell of life passing fast away, and 10 slow tolls tell of the slow step of old age!

The Passing Bell.

Prior to 1559, when a person in Perth lay *in articulo mortis*—at the point of death—the Passing Bell was tolled, that all good Christians within hearing of its tones might pray for the welfare of the parting soul. After that date, the Passing Bell was abolished in Perth, but in its place came the "Dead Bell," which

5.30 a.m.
and 8 p.m.

"Dead Bell,"

**The Dean
of Guild.**

proclaimed the passing of an individual. In turn this became a hand-bell sounded by an individual, as a common crier, paid for by the relatives concerned, but appointed by the St. John's Kirk-session. The fees seemed to have been large, as in 1631, the Kirk-session deemed it expedient to devote a portion thereof to the support of one or two poor persons.

Various Occasions.

The Dean of Guild has "charge" of the bell-ringer, although the Town Council appoints him and pays him! A bell is rung for Guildry Incorporation ordinary meetings at 7.15 p.m. For many years a bell was rung on the first Monday of every month at 10 a.m. to announce Town Council meetings—then the time of meeting was changed from forenoon to evening and no bell rung. There is one exception—when Lord Provosts and Magistrates are elected and don robes of office, a bell is rung between 6 and 7 p.m.

**The Great
War.**

Up to the time of the late Great War, a bell was rung every Tuesday and every Friday forenoon at 11 a.m. to announce a Small-Debt or other Sheriff Court—the war has passed away, but the bell-ringing has never been resumed. During the Great War the Curfew and Ten o'clock Bells ceased to be rung. In olden times the Lords of Justiciary from Edinburgh held Circuit Courts at Perth twice a year, and on the day (or evening) of their arrival a bell was rung—not on the day or days on which the Court sat.

"By Command."

St. John's Bells are rung on special occasions "by command"—for instance, for many years on Queen Victoria's birthday holiday (24th May) from 12 noon till 8 p.m., on which occasions boys were admitted "to the bells" in St. John's Steeple on payment of 1d. Years ago "the attendance" fell off, and is now nil. Honour is done to public rejoicings, as also to Royal events. A single bell is "tolled" on the passing of notable personages—for years these included the death of a member of the Royal family; a Lord Provost, or an ex-Lord Provost, and the present bell-ringer remembers the bell being tolled on the death of Sheriff Barclay, on the death of Sir Robert Pullar, and a number of others. The bells were rung to announce the end of the South African, and the Great War. During the latter, a religious service was held in St. John's West Church once a week on a week day. These services were arranged by the Rev. P. R. Landreth, and taken part in by many clergymen and attended by large congregations.

**Notable
"Passings."**

"Up Aloft."

When one ascends the narrow spiral stair leading to the belfry of St. John's Church they "mount" into a different world to which they have been accustomed. Narrow precipitous steps lead from one part up higher to another and yet another. Oak beams seemingly cut

**"Rising
Higher."**

**Lord Provost
Graham.**

and formed by an adze are everywhere; apertures indicate when the bells in olden times were rung from the floor of the church; evidence of the time when on a notable occasion the weights of the clock fell but did little damage save to some woodwork; the passing of the old apparatus with its many springs to the new carillon gifted by Lord Provost Andrew Graham; the four ponderous bells with their one-time large wheels for swinging instead of tolling the bells; the oblong metal and wood framework which forms three sides of the present chimes chamber; the iron columns (inscribed St. John's 1837) surmounted by two gold gilded balls; and one of the most remarkable things of all—the Weather Vane, which is nearly the size of a sheep! The music bells are fourteen in number, about 6 in. in diameter and 8 in. in depth.

The Hours.

**"A Guid
New Year."**

For years, the hours were struck on the large bell attached to the clock, but the "striking" was changed and is now done on the Ten o'clock Bell, which also announces the departing of the Old Year and the coming in of the New Year. One bell is out of use, and is minus a small part, as is also another—but both are of good tone. One has difficulties even in a belfry—to keep pigeons out! The higher parts are all wire-netted, yet even a strayed ring-marked homer was seen.

The Lead-Work.

It is said that the lead-work on the four-sided tower of St. John's Church is the finest in Scotland—it may well be marked “excellent,” but that has not prevented hundreds, possibly thousands, of persons from incising their names or initials into it, with not commendable results. Higher up on the southern side are neat memorial tablets telling of the “restoration” of the tower in 1767. The names given are William Stewart, Lord Provost; Henry Fyffe, Dean of Guild; Thomas Marshall, John Ramsay, Joseph Caw, and Joseph Forrester, Bailies; William Bennet, Treasurer; Peter Craigie, Convener; and the names of the tradesmen of the work. From the bartisan one gets a magnificent view, north, south, east, and west, individuals on streets below become as mere specs; Perth Bridge, the Tay and North Inch spread out in panoramic form on the north, as does Craigie Knowes and St. Magdalene's on the south; the best of all is Kinnoull Hill, recently gifted to Perth by Lord Dewar.

Mr. A. F. Dalglish.

Mr. Alex. F. Dalglish, jeweller and watchmaker, High Street, Perth, has been official “charge d'affaires” as regards Perth City Clocks for the past twenty years, attending to the regulating and winding up of the clocks, repairs, etc. He had six years previous to that assisted Mr. Donald Farquharson, St. John's Place, and others in charge of the

**The Tower
in 1767.**

**Perth City
Clocks.**

**Eerie One in
Winter.**

clocks to that were Mr. William Duff, South Methven Street, and Mr. Taylor, George Street. The music-bells (when in use) required to be wound up twice a week (which took twenty minutes each time with an iron crank handle), while the "big clock" of St. John's is wound once a week, the job being an eerie one in winter time if done at night. Years ago the long tower stairs had to be groped up by help of candle-light—there is now gas and electric light. At each landing, the place was found to be more or less filled with bats and pigeons, who, alarmed at the late unusual visitor, flew about in all directions, bringing down cobwebs and loose plaster, and raising clouds of dust. Nowadays the belfry is netted in the inside, excluding all feathered perchers and their droppings.

The Mechanism.

**Spikes got
Broken.**

The first mechanism of the music-bells was for the bells to be struck gently by a small hammer; the carillon (barrel) arrangement introduced through the generosity of Lord Provost Andrew Graham, was for a spiked cylinder to revolve and touch the bells in passing according to the tune set. This did well for a time till some of the spikes got worn, bent or broken, which caused missing of notes. Then a local man thought he could make "variations" in the music by introducing more notes. This did all right in some tunes, in others it led to confused masses of sound. Bell-metal loses tone (or be-

comes cracked), so the dominants, sounding out of tune, were re-cast at Perth Foundry, but had a dull tone. At the present time "the bells" are in a state of suspended animation (only temporary, it is to be hoped). An expert, recently asked his opinion, said to put all in playing order would cost between £300 and £400 for new bells and new machinery.

Lord Provost Graham's Gift.

The foregoing naturally causes mention to be made of what Lord Provost Graham did in his day for the improvement of St. John's music bells. Among the "stories," mention is made that at one time the music bells played only four tunes. Presumably at a later date a public subscription was got up, the bells improved, and other tunes added. By 1874, attention was called at a Town Council meeting once more to the unsatisfactory state of the bells, that some £40 of a previous subscription was on hand, and that the bells might be made once more a "joy" for £44. The matter went on from year to year as to "complaints" and "reports" till 1881, when ex-Lord Provost Andrew Graham offered to put the bells in order at a cost of £200. He had been Lord Provost of Perth in 1873 and 1874. A new mechanism erected at Kirkcaldy was visited, and favourably recommended. The patentees, Messrs. Gillett & Bland, Croydon, London, took the matter in hand, and Perth soon had the latest idea

New Bells:
£300-£400.

Lord Provost
1873-1874.

Auld Lang
Syne.

Tunes for
14 days.

working of musical bell corillons. In connection with Lord Provost Graham's gift an interesting resume is given in the "Perthshire Courier" as to the history and changes in regard to the bells.

The New Bells.

Thus; at November 1, 1881, it was announced that the new music bells presented to the city by Lord Provost Graham had arrived, and "Auld Langsyne" was appropriately played by the old bells in the evening for the last time. "The bells appear to have been in use since the year 1536, which date several of them bear. They are of the old Dutch pattern, and have in one or two instances an inscription in that language, importing that they were born or made in the year of our Lord 1526. The old system in use for the ringing of the bells is now obsolete. The arrangements on behalf of Lord Provost Graham were made by Mr. Taylor, watchmaker, George Street, then keeper of the bells. The new method consists of two barrels which are lifted by a different apparatus from that which discharged them. A time regulator changes the order of the tunes, giving a different tune on each of 14 days, each barrel being fitted to play seven airs." The tunes played by the old bells were:—

- "Ye Banks and Braes,"
- "The Boatie Rows,"
- "Kind Robin loes me,"
- "Blue Bells of Scotland,"
- "A Man's a Man for a' that,"
- "Auld Langsyne,"
- "God Save the Queen."

The New Tunes.

The new chimes in St. John's Steeple were set to play:—

- " Caller Herrin',"
- " The Boatie Rows,"
- " Nae luck about the house,"
- " Blue Bells of Scotland,"
- " The Highland Laddie,"
- " Corn Rigs,"
- " The Garb of Old Gaul,"
- " Cam ye by Athol,"
- " The Flowers of the Forest,"
- " 'Twas within a mile,"
- " See the Conquering Hero comes,"
- " Blue Bonnets,"
- " Auld Langsyne,"
- " God Save the Queen."

**Some
Favourites.**

The bells rang merrily for many years, and then began to go out of order. The missing of notes and discordant tones caused "the bells" to be tied up. They have been so for a number of years awaiting another restorer and benefactor.

Old-Time Announcements.

In Scotland, in early times, it seemed to have been an easy transition to make church bells pass from the announcing of religious duties to those of daily labour. In country districts, an even more unique time indicator (where clocks were not) was to blow a "horn" to tell when work should begin, when meals should be taken, and work cease! In Ripon, from time immemorial, there has sounded at the four quarters of the city a "horn" to announce when all good citizens and college girls should be in "house."

**Harvester's
Horn.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Corn Exchange.

Past and Present.

In the days of Stage-coaches, a long copper or brass horn announced the departure, the passing of cross-roads, and the arrival at a coach-office or inn. In the early years of Railways the departure and arrival of trains was intimated by hand-bell (still continued at some stations). Perth's first and only Corn Exchange was opened by sound of belfry bell, and the big Perth Live Stock Marts hours of sale are announced by hand-bell. Perth, like most towns in Scotland, had for years a bellman (and hand-bell) to suitably draw attention to public announcements, but the city can usually go one better than most towns.

Perth Town Drummer and Town Piper.

Geordie Munro.

As related by George Penny in his "Traditions of Perth," down to the year 1800, in addition to a drummer, Perth had a Town Piper, named Johnny Smout, famous for his skill on the Irish bagpipes. Smout's dress consisted of a scarlet coat, with wide sleeves, and white cuffs. Johnny's duty was, in conjunction with Geordie Munro ("Rough Black Dog"), the Town Drummer, to go round the town every week-day morning at five o'clock, summer and winter, and waken the inhabitants. The intervening hours from the previous midnight were announced by the City Watchmen (according to the state of the weather)—"Three o'clock, and a bonnie morning!" Smout and Munro, with pipes and drum, did a round of the town every week-day even-

ing at seven o'clock, accompanied by women and children. Sandy Bell, a regular bred drummer, succeeded to the job on Munro's death, and paraded the streets with Smout playing Rosslyn Castle and other Scottish tunes.

Johnny Smout.

A Perth officer retired from the Indian army used to tell how as his soldiers were ascending the Ghauts, a piper struck up an old Scottish air, when a man in the rear said to his neighbour—"Lord, man! does na' that mind ye o' Johnny Smout in the Shoe-gate in the morning?" The salary of the drummer and piper was 3s. a week each; in addition to which they got a considerable sum by going among the well-to-do people of the city on Hansel Monday playing their pipes and drum. The Perth drummer for public announcements continued up to about 50 or 60 years ago. Other 20 years saw the passing of the bellman.

Among the Last.

Pomarium district of Perth had once a band—a flute band, most of the players being weavers. Bridgend had also a flute band for a number of years. On occasion, the Pomarium drummer and drum made public announcements—which varied from a £5 note found, a "clearing sale," to a lost child! Previous to a recent Act, the 15th day of May was the recognised "removal term" for household tenants in Perth. On the morning

**Scottish Airs
in India.**

**Pomarium
Drummer.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**Resting in
Peace.**

of "The Term Day," the Town Drummer went round the streets warning all tenants to be out by 12 o'clock noon! For many years Sheriff Officers' sales by public roup for debt were announced by the same means to be held at Kirkside.

Bells in Sandeman Library.

The St. John's Church smaller disused bells now find "antiquarian" accommodation in Sandeman Library. There are twelve bells in all—various sizes. The six large bells measure as to depth and lip to lip, about 12 in. x 12 in. and 8 in. x 8 in. The six smaller bells measure from 8 in. x 6 in. downwards, and are kept on the other side of the corridor. Of the six larger bells, three are inscribed in Flemish as follows:—

Ic Ben Ghegoten int Iaer

Mccccxxvi.

+

("I was cast in the year 1526.")

For many years these bells were in St. John's Church Steeple.

King James VI. Hospital.

King James VI. Hospital was built between the years 1749-64. The date to the north over the main entrance is that of the charter—1587; the date to the south—1750, indicates the general erection. Surmounting the H-form building was a cupola which (according to Fittis in his "Ecclesiastical Annals of Perth") was erected at a cost of £57 13s. 1d. This cupola was replaced in 1764 by the substitution of the clock-tower or belfry of Nairne House, Strathord. This man-

**H-Form
Building.**

SANDEMAN'S

REGISTERED TRADE MARK

PORT

BEST IN THE
WORLD

The Public can make certain
of getting good and fine Port
Wine of guaranteed origin by
insisting on seeing the trademark
"SANDEMAN" on each bottle

By Special  *Appointment*
To His Majesty *King George V.*

SANDEMAN'S

ESTABLISHED IN THE YEAR 1790

ENGRAVING SILVERING SILVER PLATING WATCH AND CLOCK REPAIRING
WATCHMAKER - A. F. DALGLEISH - SILVERSMITH

SPECIAL

Scotch Jewellery and Pebble Goods

CLOCKS, JEWELLERY, AND SILVER PLATE

FOR PRESENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

PRACTICAL REPAIRERS SENT TO TOWN AND COUNTRY

OLD JEWELLERY BOUGHT AND RE-MADE

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Contractor for Windings to H.M. Government,
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in Town and Country

A. F. DALGLEISH

Watchmaker Silversmith

220-222 High Street, Perth

*Been associated with St John's Church Clock and Bells
for about Fifty Years*

sion was taken down at that time by the Duke of Atholl, who presented the belfry (possibly not the clock) to the Hospital. It was erected on the building, where it still remains. On the clock (which has two faces) is a brass plate inscribed—Jas. Cuthbert, 1754. In 1706, John Cuthbert, goldsmith in Dublin, Ireland, a native of Perth, donated to the Hospital 120 pounds (presumably Scots). The present Hospital Master, Mr. William Smail, is maternally a Cuthbert. The large bell (on which the hours formerly sounded, and which measures in depth and in diameter 18 in. x 18 in.) is inscribed:—

For my Lord Nairne. Robertvs Maxvel. Me
Fecit 1712.

(Robert Maxwell, Edinburgh, was casting bells
at that period.)

The stang is in the form of a Scottish thistle. The belfry is surmounted by a gilded weather vane. The clock requires to be wound up every day.

An Accident.

On one occasion the ropes of the clock weights gave way, and they fell with disastrous results. Now a large box of sawdust is underneath each weight in case of a similar mishap.

Other Bells.

The bell of St. Stephen's Parish Church, Craigie, is of comparatively recent date and erection, and announces the hours of service for the congregation.

**John
Cuthbert.**

**St Stephen's
Craigie.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

One Bell.

The date of Kinnoull Parish Church bell is akin to the erection of the present church, 1826, and there are no pre-existent bells.

St. John's R.C. Church, Melville Street, Perth, was built in 1832. A bell got at that date announces the various services on week-days and Sundays. The Nunnery is in Stormont Street; there is ever sentiment in the convent bell.

St. Ninian's Cathedral.

There never was more than one bell at St. Ninian's Episcopal Cathedral, Perth. It is a small one above the chancel roof, and is tolled daily for morning and evening prayer, and a quarter of an hour by nine tolls before each service. The bell was erected when the chancel part of the cathedral was built in 1850. The Very Rev. Provost P. M. Smythe, through Mr. Jas. B. Sabin, verger, has kindly supplied the above.

St. John's, Princes Street.

St. John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street—no bell. In 1796, the Episcopalians in Perth held services in the old Parliament House, Parliament Close, High Street. The building becoming unsafe, the present church was built in Princes Street. The Non-Juring party, who met in the Wrights' Hall, Watergate, merged into the same body. It was the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland which met at Perth in August, 1618, that passed "The Five Articles of Perth."

Perth Parliament.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

St. Mary's, Kinnoull, Perth.

There are three towers on the R.C. monastery of St. Mary's, Kinnoull, Perth. In one tower there is an angelus bell, and for 59 years this bell has been ringing daily. Each day this bell rings the angelus at 6 a.m., 12 noon, and 6 p.m., and is also rung before each service in the monastic church, generally at 12.30 p.m. each day and Wednesday and Saturday evenings at 8 o'clock, also on Sundays at 4 p.m. The angelus is a prayer said each day (morning, noon, and evening) by Catholics all the world over. Once upon a time every church in Scotland had its angelus bell. The Salutation Hotel, by its name "salutation," keeps alive the memory of ancient days. In another tower, two bells chime the quarter hours and work along with the clock. In the third tower there are no bells. The Rev. Peter F. Deery, Rector of St. Mary's, Kinnoull, has kindly supplied the foregoing information.

Scone.

Rev. D. Logan Blair has kindly supplied some interesting information regarding the bell in Scone Parish Church. The bell now used was in use in the Parish Church which stood at Old Scone, and the belfry was moved stone by stone and re-erected in New Scone in the year 1804-5. It is said, but not vouched for, that the bell and belfry are the original of the bell and belfry in Sir John E. Millais' picture, "The Burial."

The Services.

Old Scone.

**Perth Rotary
Club.**

**1126 to
1874.**

There is an old Gaelic proverb to the following effect: "Thus says the bell of Scone—Never concern yourself with what does not concern you."

Mr. Robert Cooper.

Just as these sheets were passing through the press, Mr. Robert Cooper, of Messrs. Ramage and Cooper, contractors for St. John's Church restoration scheme, gave an interesting address to Perth Rotary Club in the Royal George Hotel—President John Lindsay in the chair—on St. John's Church. After reference to the varied "congregations" which had met within the walls of St. John's, the followers of Wallace and Bruce, the Roberts of Scotland, the Edwards of England, Mary Queen of Scots, the Scottish James' and Charles' and other Kings of Scotland, John Knox and the leaders of the Reformation, the soldiers of Cromwell, and Prince Charlie and the supporters of the Jacobite cause, and their own fathers, Mr. Cooper went on to trace the history of the church from the year 500. The workmen came upon the remains of the first church 4 ft. 6 in. below the present level. The nave was built in 1126—the tower is of date 1328, the transept and choir of 1440, the organ of 1510-11, and the present pipe organ of 1874 were alluded to. The partitioning of St. John's into three churches took place in 1773.

Incidents.

Other incidents referred to were the

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Earl of Cornwall being killed before the high altar of St. John's in 1335 by his brother, Edward III. of England, and James IV. of Scotland giving 11s. 6d. for the repairing of the church in 1496. The King's seat was attached to the south-west pillar of the crossing, and John Knox's pulpit to the north-east pillar.

The Mercer Vault.

The Mercer vault (1380) is under the window of the north transept. In 1588 the Earl of Gowrie was buried in the choir of the church. The large Rhine marble slab at the east end of the choir with sinkings cut into it in the shape of two human beings, is said to be the tombstone of James I. of Scotland and his Queen, removed from the Carthusian monastery on demolition. Halkerstone Tower was in turn used as a dead-house and a place for non-attenders at church.

Altars.

In the middle of the 15th century, St. John's Church had a high altar to St. John the Baptist and about forty other altars around its walls. Communion cups were presented to St. John's Church (still used) by Mary Queen of Scots, or her mother, Mary of Guise. Two historic chairs are of date 1633 (Charles I.). The pre-Reformation candelabra now hangs in front of the War memorial shrine. The tower contains five bells inside and a carillon of fifteen bells outside. The old curfew bell (without date) has on it a crown and the legend in Latin, "Behold the Lamb of God," the figure of a

**Earl of
Gowrie.**

**Charles I.,
1633.**

**The New,
The True!**

cock crowing and the inscription, "To call for us." The oldest dated bell is the "Skelloch Bell" (1400), fractured and out of use. The great bell (1506) has the inscription in Latin:—

"I am called John the Baptist,
The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
Peter Maghens of Mechlin made me.
So blessed be He who created all things—1506."

Au Revoir.

Bells—Ring out the old, ring in the new;
Ring out the false, ring in the true!



ST JOHN'S CHURCH, PERTH

Three Perth Industries

Messrs. P. D. Malloch's.

In the centre of the city of Perth are Messrs. P. D. Malloch's unique and extensive premises. A laddie might describe the shop as a "flee-hook place." That designation, however, scarcely does honour to the size of the premises in themselves and the number of natural history specimens (and beautiful and correct specimens at that) all around displayed. Mr. P. D. Malloch was a man, a natural genius, who soared far above being a mere killer of trout—and in his day he was a notable killer at Loch Leven and on other streams. Mr. Malloch had the observant eye, the penetrating mind for things up to then unrecorded in regard to the life-habits of salmon and trout of all kinds. He was alike a naturalist and an angler. His publications take first rank in everything that pertains to pisciculture. All the while he was inventing improved rods, reels, lines, and other accessories for the perfecting and giving pleasure in the higher realms of angling, he was building up a practical business for the supply of same which now exists at Scott Street, Perth. The firm of Messrs. P. D. Malloch, of Perth, is known world-wide as to angling and the letting of salmon angling waters and grouse moors and deer forests, the buying and selling of estates, and all that tends to the best interests of sportsmen.

**Natural
History.**

**A Practical
Business.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

King's Highway.

Cadogan's Motor Works.

Changing modes of transit in Perth has seen the pack-horse pass to stage-coach, and the "coach" in turn pass to railway. The present era has seen the coming of the motor car and motor 'bus on our roadways and aeroplanes in the clouds. The latter is not yet, but the King's highway (and our city streets) are thronged with petrol-driven engines and 'buses. Perth led in stage-coach and early railway carriage building. Perth is now leading in motor car and 'bus body building. Mr. Cadogan and his firm at St. Catherine's Road, Dunkeld Road, have shown great enterprise, and great success has attended one of Perth's latest industries. It is a credit to Messrs. Cadogan Ltd., that orders are being received for motor 'bus bodies for Perth and other parts of Scotland and England quicker than they can be made. A compliment to good workmanship.

Messrs Campbell.

Campbell's Confectionery Works.

Time was when the staid people of Scotland were content to mouth a peppermint lozenge. Quick to note the trend of public demand Messrs. John Campbell, aerated water manufacturers, added to their extensive works at Feus Road, Perth, a department for the making of sweets and putting on the market confectionery of the best kind. And such enjoyable and toothsome sweets. The quality of the toffees and other sweets produced have been their commendation and success on the market.

St Catherine's and Burgh Muir

**The Days of Outside Executions,
The Pillory, and The Tolbooth**

The St. Catherine's district of Perth (upper High Street) of a previous time was largely clay—spiritual and earthly. To-day, on both sides of the lade is Perth's "industrial belt"—City Mills (for many years McDonalds); Perth Foundry (Robertson's); Lindsay's preserve works; Banks' ropework; Moncrieff's glass and tube works; Coates and Co.'s jute works; P. & P. Campbell's dyeworks (now Pullars); Cadogan's motor works; J. Shields & Co.'s linen works; Shields' garage; Perth Swimming Baths; Perth Laundry; Campbell's lemonade and confectionary works; the City of Perth Co-operative Society premises; Thom & Co., motor works; Shell-Mex motor-spirit stores; Mr David Beat's concrete works, etc.

A City Gateway.

The representation of the Turret Port Gate, which Mr. Thomas McLaren, Burgh Surveyor, Perth, has very kindly drawn for the present volume, is not only well done in itself, but is true to type and to the information available. One stands in the High Street of three hundred years ago, and looks westward. To right and left are the City Walls,

**Industrial
Belt.**

**Turret Port
Gate.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

The 16th Century.

and parapets on either side of the narrow bridge which spans the lade are shown. As behoved "a turret bridge gateway," there is strength and beauty in it. It is a credit to the Perth of the time. The features or design of it are that it follows very much the lines of similar gateways in fortified towns in France. Perth was the only fortified town in Scotland up to the 16th century.

Old Titles.

Old titles allude to this "port" as the "Turat," "Turret," "Turrett," and "Turrit" Brig and Port. It remained as long as the fortifications existed—from the 13th to the 17th century. The last remnants were removed about 1760. No records exist as to date of construction of this gateway. This gateway led from the fortified city to the highway between Perth and the Turret Brig at Crieff. Hence the name Turret Brig Port. In the earlier years of its existence the town's lade or foss was spanned by a drawbridge, but in later times by a stone arched bridge.

Royal Arches.

Queen Victoria.

In 1842, a beautiful temporary arch, or gateway, was erected by the Town at Princes Street to do honour to the first visit of Her Majesty Queen Victoria and Prince Albert to the city and Scone Palace, as also another by Mr. Wallace, H.M. Coach Mails contractor for Perth district, at Atholl Street. On occasions since to do honour to Royal events

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

handsome temporary arches or gateways have been erected at South Street Port and High Street Port. The last one erected at the High Street Port cost Lord Dean of Guild Robert Henderson about £100.

In Old Times.

Passing through "the gate" there was little to see and less to admire—a few straggling buildings here and there which were outside the city, then orchards and fields, some of the latter cultivated and some not, for "land" was cheap in those days. We have already noted the pre-Reformation St. Paul's Chapel. To the southward was the Carthusian monastery, westward the Carmelite monastery of Tullylumb, and immediately Sir John Tyrie's ground and possessions, and later the Feu House. Monasteries were the "great" houses of the 12th-16th centuries—great in size and great in wealth. The Blackfriars, the Greyfriars, the Carthusian, and the Whitefriars (or Carmelite) monasteries have often been described. Incidental mention is sufficient at the present time.

The Playfields of Perth.

Perhaps more interesting and less known were the "Playfields of Perth" situated to the west of Perth, at Clayholes, or near Tullylumb. Here was acted before King James V. in the amphitheatre of St. Johnstoun the play by Sir David Lindsay—"Pleasant Satyre of the Three Estates," which was anything but "pleasant" to the Roman Church of the time.

**Land
Cheap.**

**King
James V.**

**The Days of
Archery.**

The play was performed "fra morn to even" before not only the King, but a large number of the nobility and gentry.

Linlithgow.

The same play was given at Linlithgow on 6th Jan., 1539-40. Perth amphitheatre was also the place where religious plays, called "Mysteries and Moralities" were performed. Here, too, took place "Weaponshaws" and archery competitions. One can imagine the pomp and the splendour which would take place in the visit of James V. to Perth and the importance the Turret Bridge took on on such an occasion. "First-class importance" would also be the inhabitants assembling in town and passing through the same gate for "Weaponshaws" and archery competitions.

Messrs. John Dewar & Sons.

Part of the area is now the site of Messrs. John Dewar & Sons, Ltd., "White Label" offices, bottling department, bonds, cooperage, etc.; part Perth General Station, Earl's Dykes, Unthank, etc.

**Permanent
Gallows.**

Capital Punishment.

The Turret Port Gate of Perth saw other sights when those convicted of capital crimes at Perth were hanged on the Burgh Muir, where there was a permanent gallows. The day of an execution in Perth in olden time was one of extreme excitement and bustle in the town. At 10 in the morning the Dead Drum was beat through the streets, and

again at 11 a.m., and 12 noon. There was a guard of 100 burghers, armed with guns, swords, and pikes. Two horses, with a cart on which was a platform, drew up at the Tolbooth door at foot of High Street. The condemned man, bound with ropes and attended by two men, mounted the cart, and at the tuck of drum, the procession moved off and passed through the Turret Gate at High Street Port for the place of execution at Burgh Muir, where the hangman did his duty.

The Executions.

Perth records tell of the many persons who died in this way at the place indicated. Among those who did were two young men belonging to better class people who suffered the extreme penalty for being engaged in the Jacobite rebellion; the hangman took ill en route, asked for a drink of water at Wellshill spring, but died. A man in Perth jail, also under sentence for capital punishment, did the job before the time fixed expired, on condition that his own sentence was computed, which was afterwards declared to have been an illegal offer. Sergeant More, the Highland robber, long the terror of Perth district, was at length apprehended, tried, convicted, and hanged, his body being in chains. McEwan, a Muthill man, was also hung in chains, for the murder of a young woman whom he seduced, and a boy who was with her at the time. During harvest, some shearers in the vicinity of a wood were surprised at a

**The Tuck
of Drum.**

**Sergeant
More.**

No Escape.

dog bringing the arm of a boy to them. This led to the discovery of the crime. Two soldiers, named Chapel and Campbell, watched a farmer getting a sum of money on a market day, murdered him on the South Inch by stabbing him with a bayonet which they left behind. They were apprehended, tried, convicted, and hanged.

"His Own Hand."

One man, on the morning of the day appointed for his execution, cut his throat; his throat was sewed up; and he was executed! A Highlander, with little English, was executed for stealing cattle. He asserted that he had been hired by a stranger to drive the cattle along the road. The last person who was hanged on the Burgh Muir (about 1776) was a young woman for stealing clothes from a washing-house—the only instance of the execution of a female that had occurred for a long time, and none since. In 1703, Perth was without an executioner, and Lord James Drummond's executioner at Crieff, Donald McAra, was got on loan; a like arrangement took place in 1713, when Lord Breadalbane's hangman, John McEwan, was granted to the town "on an undertaking by the Magistrates to give the Earl the use of him at all times, and return him if required!"

A Hangman on Loan.

Riots.

At the close of these executions riots often took place. The hangman after carrying out the sentence of the law was

the subject of ribald remarks, followed by mobbing and riot. It behoved him to return to the Turret Port Gate as quickly as possible. This was a strange contrast to the previous solemn march to the place of execution.

Grimness.

A hangman got a guinea for every execution performed, and his "perquisites" for years included the largest piece of coal from every vessel which came to Perth with that cargo; a fish from every fishing boat, and one from every creel carried. Part of his duties was to attend Court at capital charge trials, and if the accused was convicted, he laid a hand on the prisoner's head and three times called out—"Dead! dead! dead! By the Law you are dead." Hence the origin of the quaint word, doomster or deemster. The Town Sergeants got 5s. each for every execution; the 100 members of the guard got 6d. each—then the daily pay of a soldier in the Army. The Magistrates concluded the day with a dinner!

Public Whippings.

Public whippings took place in Perth for many years, and these "vindications" of the Law were as great ceremonies as executions. The delinquent, male or female, was led through the streets, preceded by the Town Drummer, with a guard to keep order or prevent a rescue. Starting from the foot of High Street the route was by Watergate, South Street, through the Meal Vennel, and by High

**Old-Time
Perquisites.**

**Male or
Female.**

**Between
1780-1784.**

Street back to the Tolbooth. (South Methven Street and North Methven Street were not then formed.) At every point at which the Town Drummer stopped and beat his drum, punishment was applied. The parties were led bare-headed and bare-backed and the lash of so many strokes given. The spectacle was a debasing one, especially when the culprit was a woman. The whippings were usually for immorality. On one occasion three men and two women were tried before a Circuit Court and sentenced to be publicly whipped. In another it was the case of a man and woman. These cases took place between 1780 and 1784. On some occasions riots took place at the public whippings as well as at the executions. On one occasion the 3rd Dragoons, then stationed on the South Inch, were called out to quell a riotous crowd, and charged and dispersed the mob in the direction of the High Street Port.

The City Walls in 1591.

**Unwilling
Owners.**

The Town Council of Perth appealed to the Privy Council in 1591 to compel unwilling owners of property to repair the City Walls in fulfilment of obligation to do so, when they were permitted to extend their yards to the north wall. The appeal of the Magistrates was as follows as indicated in the minutes:—

Whereas the Town Wall of the burgh on the north side had become ruinous, and could no longer keep out limmers and thieves, "quha commonlie in the Inch entered within the same," and being hindered from repairing the wall by

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

other necessary works then in hand, granted license and liberty to their neighbours dwelling on the north side of "the Northgate of said burgh between David Young's Vennel and the Turret Brig."

The parties at their own request had got liberty to extend their yards to the wall on condition that they would repair and maintain the wall, and leave a passage by the side. They had not repaired the wall, and the minute indicated that they had no intention of doing so!

The Pillory.

A Pillory was erected at foot of High Street (the stone still remains in the causeway), circa 1520, and here punishments were meted out. Many executions took place, including Charlie Graham, a noted tinker, pick-pocket, and robber; John Hutchison (1524), for returning after being banished and for stealing wool; John Paterson, for stealing two cows which he sold to a flesher; John Brown, hanged for stealing a cow; John Butcher, hanged for stealing a grey mare; Margaret Lockhart, for stealing a silver bell, sentenced to be drowned under water till dead; Marshall, an Auchtermuchty wife-poisoner; an Irishman who hanged himself; McCraw, a weaver, who murdered his wife; John Larg, a native of Perth, for hamesucken with one Mitchell at Friarton Toll; a Danish sailor for rape; the Thief of Glenalmond, etc.

**No
Intention!**

**Serious
Crime.**

"Anyone from Glenalmond?"

In connection with the latter case, as

Perth in
1696.

"The Thief" was on the gallows, he asked if there was anyone in the crowd belonging to Glenalmond. One answered in the affirmative. "The Thief" asked him, as a favour, if he would take home his snuff-mull. The request was agreed to!

Perth Tolbooth.

Tolbooths were found to be very necessary at an early period. In these days, the Town House of the city was an important place, and the Tolbooth usually formed part of the building. There is in existence a drawing of the Town Council House of Perth as it was in 1696 (it was removed in 1839). The Earl of Errol was ordered to be imprisoned in the Tolbooth of Perth because he refused to accept Episcopacy. The Perth Tolbooth had, however, usually persons of less distinction than an earl. In 1610, the office of gaoler of the Perth Tolbooth was vacant, and George Lumsdail, messenger, of Lawers, seems to have been "appointed" on his own terms. In 1613, the Deacon of the Weavers and others had been apprehended and put in the Tolbooth for not paying "taxes."

1617.

"A Weavers' Complaint."

The Weavers complained to the Lords of Council and Session, but, having been set at liberty, decret was suspended. In 1617, Gilbert Robertson, skinner in Perth, was committed to the Tolbooth by the Magistrates in an action against him. Robertson also "complained" to

the same high authority, and was released. In 1743, James Sibbald, keeper of the Perth Tolbooth, received a "censure" communication, for imprisoning three persons charged with theft in an neighbouring county without authority in the Tolbooth of Perth. In 1745, while the Jacobites held Perth, the Council House and the Tolbooth was a very busy place. In 1804, the Perth Tolbooth was in a state of decay and practically done, and this applied to Town Hall, Court Room, etc. The Perthshire Commissioners of Supply presented a petition to the House of Commons on the matter. Result: Perth County Buildings.

An Old Religious House.

Part of the old Perth Tolbooth was of a still older religious house called St. Mary's Chapel and situated to the north-east corner of the building or buildings which one time stretched across the foot of the High Street with the river behind. At what date the religious cells passed to criminal cells is unknown (possibly 1560), but they were said to be gloomy enough for the most depressed. There was one cell on the ground-floor arched above, 12 ft. square, with three iron bars, and an oak inside and an iron outside door. This was known as the laigh iron-house, or condemned cell. The criminal was chained to the floor to prevent escape, his bed consisted of straw on the stone floor, and a single blanket. Turnkeys were in charge of the place. Under such con-

**In a State
of Decay.**

**Laigh
Iron House.**

Loaves
at $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

ditions a person might be excused for wanting to leave the world. Above the condemned cell were three cells, or cages for ordinary criminals, these cells measuring 16 ft. by 12 ft. Above were two garret-rooms for debtors. One of the upper cells, or cages, was allotted to women. Fresh water in a wooden stoup was given twice a week. Bread consisted of five $\frac{1}{2}$ d. loaves a day, until an old man sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment complained that he could not live on that quantity and the allowance was increased to seven. Three or four debtors were sometimes huddled into one of the garrets. The accommodation was wretched, and the smell intolerable.

The Speygate Prison.

Debtors'
Prison.

The then Duke of Atholl prevailed on the Perthshire County authorities to erect (on the site of Gowrie House) new public buildings to face Tay Street and a prison in Speygate, and a governor and warders put in charge. A chaplain was appointed to preach on Sundays, and give secular and religious knowledge on week days, to those under detention. This continued till about thirty years ago when imprisonment for debt passed away, and soon afterwards the criminals were conveyed to and confined in Perth General Prison, the governor appointed to Inverness, and the chaplain to Aberdeen. At present there is a proposal to clear away the old jail and build additional county offices on the site.

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The Old-Time Debtors.

What remained of Perth Tolbooth continued and was altered on the coming into being of the Police Act a hundred years ago. Part was fitted up as a sort of "penitentiary" under police management. The old debtors' rooms were divided into cells, the cages abolished, and the place improved for the refractory. On Perth Municipal Buildings being erected, and re-erected after a fire, the site of the old prison was turned into the present day cells. A plank bed may be hard, but it is healthy. The debtor was a man of another day, and has long since passed away. On a debtor being apprehended and confined he had to wait till first Town Court day, obtain an order and serve an intimation on his creditor for aliment at 6d. or 9d. a day. Twelve or fourteen days subsistence cost him (or his friends) 10/6; the jailer charged him jail fees for accommodation, 3d. per night if a burgess; 6d. do. if a non-burgess. After he had satisfied his creditors (and the law) the debtor was allowed to go!

French Soldiers in Perth.

At the Reformation in Scotland in 1559, Mary of Lorraine, sometimes called Mary of Guise, widow of James V., was Regent and head of the Roman Catholic party in the country. John Knox arrived in Perth on 10th May, and on the 11th preached his fateful sermon in St. John's Church. Everybody knows what followed. Mary of Guise, with an army of

**Erected and
Re-erected.**

**Mary of
Lorraine.**

**French
Musketeers.**

5,000, marched from Stirling to Auchterarder. There was a truce for three days, then Regent Mary entered Perth on 29th May with a French force under Commander-in-Chief D'Oysel, dismissed the Magistrates, and made Charteris of Kinfauns Lord Provost in place of Lord Ruthven. With an escort of French musketeers, and to the sound of music, Regent Mary approached the High Street Port near the Mill Wynd, the gate of which was thrown open, revealing a crowded street beyond. There she received the keys of the surrendered city. She looked anxious and careworn—though the charm of her beauty remained, her eye had lost the sparkle of other days. At this time she was 40 years of age. She remained a few days in Perth, and then left for Falkland and St. Andrews, leaving a garrison of 600 French. Later Perth surrendered to the Reformers.

Some Mill Wynd Dates and Names.

**King James
Hospital.**

The interesting titles of many of the subjects in the Mill Wynd of Perth (at least, the oldest of them) are at present in the careful custody of Messrs. Finlay and Wilson, W.S., Edinburgh. From these it appears that the ground and buildings from the Mill Lade to High Street belonged to the King James VI. Hospital of Perth, thereafter to the heirs of John Auchenleck, glover, and thereafter to Patrick Reoch, writer, Perth, and later to John Reoch, surgeon in Perth. Then to Robert Sandeman

and William Sandeman equally, being eldest son and third son respectively of David Sandeman, one-time Dean of Guild of Perth, and thereafter to William Sandeman, followed by the owners of more modern times.

Dispositions.

In the disposition by John Reoch to Robert and William Sandeman, dated 1741, there is no mention of any buildings, but in the disposition from Robert Sandeman of his one-half share to his brother William Sandeman in the year 1756, there appears at the end of the description the following words: "upon which several houses are now built." One therefore comes to the conclusion that the buildings on these particular subjects were probably originally erected some time between the years 1741 and 1756, and no doubt by the Sandemans or others engaged in the weaving boom which took place about that period in Perth.

**Sandemans
in 1741.**

The Jacobites.

A double event might be said to be the last most notable affair to pass from Perth westwards, by High Street Port. These were the Jacobite risings in 1715 and 1745. On each occasion the Jacobites assembled on the North Inch—in 1715 under the Earl of Mar (the Old Pretender was late in arriving), and in 1745 under Bonnie Prince Charlie (the Young Pretender) and Lord George Murray. An inscription might well be placed on some place to the effect:—

**1715 and
1745.**

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

**We ran, and
they ran!**

"The Jacobites assembled on the North Inch of Perth in 1715 and 1745." The present "Glasgow Road" was not then in existence. The Jacobites of the '15 passed out of Perth by the High Street Port and Tibbermore Road to Auchterarder, then to the high ground near Dunblane. Here "Sheriffmuir" battle was fought, and naebody won! The Jacobites returned to Perth, proceeded to Montrose, and disbanded!

The '45.

In the '45, the Jacobites again left Perth by the High Street Port, and proceeded to Auchterarder and Stirling, and then to Edinburgh, where Prestonpans was gloriously won. The march into England followed; the retreat was begun at Derby; and sad Culloden was the end of "Claymore, claymore!"

In Fancy!

In fancy, one can picture the Jacobites on the two occasions in question as they marched out of Perth. "Will they a' return to their ain Hielant glen,"

**"Second
Sight!"**

..... "Second-sighted Sandy was fae, fu' fae!" These were picturesque events for Perth. Shortly afterwards the "loanings" to the Burgh Muir were cut through, and the present wide "Road to Glasgow" formed. A once-used road from Perth to Tibbermore is now grown over with brambles!

The End.

Lord George Murray, the able leader

of the Jacobite forces of the '45, was born at Huntingtower Castle, near Perth, then a seat of the Duke of Atholl. The "Scots Magazine" of 1746 says:—"At Perth, the Jacobites left (on their return journey) 13 pieces of iron cannon, about 8 and 12 pounders, and nailed up and threw into the river a great quantity of cannon balls. It must have been a somewhat sad sight to see the Jacobites return to Perth in about seven months from the time they marched out of it—to enter it by the same way they went out, the High Street Port. The Duke of Cumberland was following up hard behind and entered Perth the same way. The Jacobites (after a rest) crossed the Tay at Perth (there was then no bridge), and marching by Coupar Angus and Forfar, made for Montrose and Aberdeen to proceed to Culloden. Another portion proceeded from Stirling via Crieff to Inverness. Three French ships landed at Montrose and Stonehaven, and proceeded to Alloa, having on board six gentlemen, 10 guns, 6 four-pounders, 8 chests of arms, some broad swords, pistols, cannon and musket balls, and 26 casks of powder."

Even a Gate-way sees many events in a life-time!

**Jacobite
Cannon.**

Perth Guisards

An Old-Time Survival of Hogmanay and New Year

Old Festivals.

Scottish festivals are more noticeable in the breach than in the observance. Saints' days are materialistic rather than religious—Whitsunday and Martinmas; Lammas is seldom mentioned except when a heavy rainstorm comes along and flooding takes place. St. Valentine's Day, Fastern's Eve, and Hallowe'en no longer produce revels, public or private. It is a moot point if the world is better, or the reverse, on account of the non-observance of these occasions. The actuality of such events have passed away, but tradition and chap-books tell of them, and the merry, merry times which took place. The flower may have perished, but the aroma of the rose-petals remain!

Revelry.

Variants.

Old-time Scottish seasons lent themselves to occasions of boisterous revelry. High spirited youths donned fantastic garments—they disguised themselves—and paraded the streets of our cities; the hilarity gave pleasure to the producers and to those who witnessed it. Thus we get disguise, disguised; to 'guise, guisar, and the variant, guizzars. The higher side of the subject is delineated by Sir Walter Scott in "The Fair Maid of Perth," which in turn may have had suggestion from the carnivals of Venice.

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There was variant in the observance as well as in the designation. Some Scottish towns had adult, and some youthful guisars—others had none! Perth has been one of the “ayes” in regard to the custom from time immemorial, and it continues till the present time. On Auld Year’s Nicht the custom takes on an annual renewed life and activity in Perth.

Champions.

The one-time champions of Italy and Spain on such occasions issued forth with “challenges” in regard to erudition or strength, sometimes both. As an example, we have our own Admirable Crichton, who died in a carnival revel at Mantau. Then there was “The Spanish Champion” of recitation fame many years ago. These “challenges” were met, or a forfeit paid. Challengers had prologues, one of which, translated, was—

“Here comes I, Galatian—Galatian is my name;

With sword and pistols by my side, I hope to win the game!”

Woe to the wight, Scottish or otherwise, who was unable to withstand the challenge. The same held good in regard to towns. There is a story told to the effect that one of these “champions” visited Scone when it was at the height of its greatness as an abbey and religious house. Whether the famous Galatian visited Scotland is not known—the fame of his deeds seem to have done so. In early times of Perth’s “guising” on

**Admirable
Crichton.**

**Scone
Visited.**

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Hogmanay, or the last night of the old year, a play was for many years performed from door to door by the youth of the city, beginning "Here comes J. McGlashan," which was much the same as that of more sunny birth.

Song—Play.

**As Dusk
Draws On.**

For many decades "song" has taken the place of "play" in Perth. Melodious rhythm can hardly be said to constitute the bill of fare. As dusk draws on, a rough tug at a bell is followed by two or three urchin voices peremptorily exclaiming—

"Rise up, guid wife, and shak' ye're feathers,
And dinna think that we are beggars;
We're only bairns come oot tae play,
Gie's oor Hogmanay, and lats away!"

Five minutes later a similar number of voices, with even blacker faces, announce—

"If ye dinna let us in,
We'll bash your windows in,
And you'll never see the guisars any more."

In the interests of property (which is not so covered by a clause in insurance schedules), discretion is the better part of valour, and coppers are parted with.

A Blessing?

Another five minutes and—

"Rat, tat, tat, the Year is passing now
And the folks are getting fat—
Give us a penny to put in an old man's hat
If you haven't a penny a ha'penny will do—
If you haven't got a ha'penny—God bless
you!"

The last clause of the line is well enough memorised, but not very reverently uttered.

PERTH: PAST AND PRESENT.

Repertoire.

At one time "Scots wha hae," "Will ye no come back again" (weak in the solo verses but strong in chorus), and other Scottish songs formed the major part of the repertoire of the guisars, but these have lost favour of recent years. "Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching" still holds good, followed by the newspaper boy's latest ditty, which in turn owes its origin to the 'alls. "Tipperary" went with the war, and was followed by "Horsey, keep your tail up." "The Road to the Isles" and "Londonderry Air" are having a run, and most unexpectedly a ditty on the doings of St. Johnstone in the Scottish League. As to the latter, every little helps towards recognition, but Perthshire cricketers may become jealous, considering the great week of Scottish cricket arranged for 1929 for the North Inch of Perth.

Up-to-Date.

This year saw a big change in the song programme—perhaps up-to-date! It was the "biggest change" for many years! Scottish minstrelsy was discarded—instead there was served up such diversified items as "It Aint gonna rain no more," "Ramona," "Chic-Chic-Chicken," "Rabbits-skins," "Mary Brown," "Up in a 'Plane," "Rosary," "All alone in the Moonlight," "Oh, Doris," "Wassail Song," etc. There was a suggestion that Picture-screen choruses had a lot to answer for, and were causing the discarding of school songs. The

**Latest
Ditties.**

**Some
Songs.**

Disguises!

Gaelic Society of Perth must be making progress—one band of guisars gave “Ho, ro, my nut-brown maiden; she’s the girl for me!”

The Wardrobe.

Where the “characters” are nearly all “male parts,” one might be pardoned for thinking that there would be a similarity of dress. Not so; father’s discarded lum-hat is saved the trouble of being sent to a jumble sale; as soot had been accumulating in the kitchen chimney, mother does not object to such being partly removed; tailor’s have a disposition for putting white linings in jackets, so a chameleon change from black to white is the work of a minute; “Sis” has more old costumes than ever she will wear—so, hey-ho, all is ready for “the fair” and the collecting of coppers! Of course, a little memorising and rehearsing had previously been done in a cellar!

The Spoil!

The Success!

One other thing is necessary for a successful Hogmanay Night in Perth—good weather! One’s memory fails to number the bad ones. The guisars issue forth and gather their harvest! What of the drawings? Here we must do a little eaves-dropping. After two or three hours’ “turn,” the groups meet under lamp-posts, and count the spoil! The bigger boys arrogantly ask their smaller fellows—“Here, you wee punchers, how much hae ye made?” “Eichteen pence,”

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is the proud reply. Among the bigger boys (and girls) better results have accrued—from two to three shillings up. For a party of two or three this gives a sixpence to spend, sixpence for the "Pictures," and a sixpence to put in the school bank. Mother does not charge anything for face-washing soap!

